



Past continuous: affirmative and negative

Affirmative	Negative
I was jumping. He / She / It was jumping. You / We / They were jumping.	I wasn't jumping. He / She / It wasn't jumping. You / We / They weren't jumping.

We make the affirmative form of the past continuous with *was* or *were* and the *-ing* form of the main verb.

We make the negative form by putting *not* between *was* or *were* and the *-ing* form of the main verb.

In spoken and informal written English, we use the short forms *wasn't* and *weren't*.

Past continuous: questions

Questions	Short answers	
	Affirmative	Negative
Was I climbing?	Yes, I was.	No, I wasn't.
Was he / she / it climbing?	Yes, he / she / it was.	No, he / she / it wasn't.
Were you / we / they climbing?	Yes, you / we / they were.	No, you / we / they weren't.

We make short answers with the subject and *was* or *were*, without the *-ing* form of the main verb.

Were you walking to school at 8.00? Yes, I was.

Was Selin standing in that photo? No, she wasn't.

Were they running on Friday? Yes, they were.

Question words go before the verb *was* or *were*.

What were we doing on Saturday morning?

Where was Artem walking this afternoon?

Usage

We use the past continuous to talk about actions in progress at a point in the past. We often use expressions to show the point of time, such as *at* or *on* (plus a time) or *when* (plus a past simple action).

It was raining at two o'clock this morning.

What were they doing on Friday evening?

You weren't listening to the photographer when he said 'smile'.

Past simple and past continuous

Usage

We often use the past continuous to describe an action in progress which was interrupted.

She was walking into town when she met her friends.

We use the past continuous for the longer action in progress (*was walking*). We use the past simple (*met*) for the shorter action which interrupts the longer one.

We often use *when* before the past simple and *while* before the past continuous.

They were travelling across Africa when they took the photo.

They took the photo while they were travelling across Africa.

Adjectives and adverbs

Most adjectives	add <i>-ly</i> polite → politely slow → slowly quiet → quietly
Adjectives ending in -y	drop <i>-y</i> and add <i>-ily</i> happy → happily easy → easily angry → angrily
The same as the adjective	hard → hard fast → fast
Irregular	good → well

Usage

We use adjectives to describe nouns.

Mike is a polite boy.

We use adverbs to describe verbs.

Mike speaks politely.