

PAST CONTINUOUS (PC)

a EXAMPLES

AFFIRMATIVE	You were studying Maths.	She was working in the office.
NEGATIVE	We weren't playing cards.	He wasn't having a shower .
INTERROGATIVE	What were you doing last night?	Were you watching tv?
SHORT ANSWER	Yes, I was	No, I wasn't

b Structure

AFFIRMATIVE	subject + was /were + verb-ing + complements
NEGATIVE	subject + wasn't / weren't + verb-ing + compl.
INTERROGATIVE	Was /were + subject + verb-ing + compl.?
SHORT ANSWER	Yes, subject (pronoun) + was /were No, subject (pronoun) + wasn't / weren't

c USES

1. ACTIONS IN PROGRESS IN THE PAST

- My brother **was listening** to music yesterday afternoon.
- We **were having dinner** last night at nine o'clock.

2. TWO SIMULTANEOUS ACTIONS

- I **was buying** in the supermarket while my brother **was cooking**. (PC + PC)

3. ACTION IN PROGRESS INTERRUPTED BY A SHORT ACTION

- She **was having a shower** when the telephone rang. (PC + PS)

"She was having a shower" (action in progress)

"The telephone rang" (shorter action)

- They **were playing** tennis when it started to rain.
- I saw Peter while he **was running** in the park.
- While we **were watching** the football match the light went out.
- As she **was walking**, a stranger took her handbag.

d TIME EXPRESSIONS

- Time expressions with PAST REFERENCE
- **while/ as** = mientras + Past Continuous
While he **was cooking**, he **heard** the news
While we **were having dinner**, the neighbour **knocked** on the door.
- **when**= cuando + Past Simple
He **was cooking** when he **heard** the news.
We **were having dinner** when suddenly the neighbour **knocked** on the door.

PRACTICE

1. While they (walk) _____ down the street, it (start) _____ to rain.
2. The sun (come out) _____ while we (play)) _____ football.
3. I (read) _____ in bed when the light suddenly (go out) _____ .
4. (She/watch) _____ when you (arrive) _____ ?
5. Peter and Paul (drive) _____ very fast when they (have) _____ and accident.
6. Her husband (sit) _____ on the sofa when she (arrive) _____