



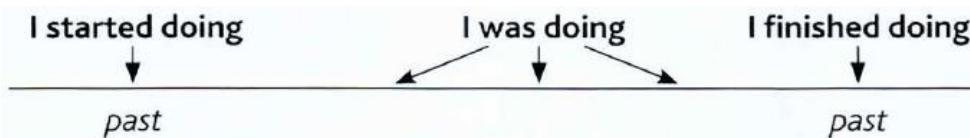
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## Grammar Reference

### Past continuous

The past continuous is used to talk about the activity that was in the middle of a certain time in the past. The activity had already started before that time but had not finished.



Example:

This time last year I **was playing golf** in the U.S.  
 What **were you doing** at 10 o'clock yesterday?

Form:

Subject + was/were + verb-ing + ...

### Past continuous and past simple

Past continuous	Past simple
He <b>was walking</b> home when he <b>met</b> Lisa. (in the middle of walking)	He <b>walked</b> home after school yesterday. (finished)
David <b>was watching</b> TV when we <b>arrived</b> .	David <b>watched</b> TV a lot when he <b>was sick</b> last month.

**Note:** We often use the past simple and the past continuous together to say that something happened in the middle of something else.

Example:

David **phoned** while we **were having** dinner.  
 It **was raining** when I **got** up.  
 I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and reading a book.  
 I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the garden.

In contrast, we use the past simple to say that one thing happened directly after another.

Example:

I **was walking** along the road when I **saw** David. So I **stopped**, and we **had** a chat.

Compare

When Linda <b>arrived</b> , we <b>were having</b> dinner. (We had already started before she arrived)	When Linda <b>arrived</b> , we <b>had</b> dinner. (Linda arrived, and then we had dinner)
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**Note:** Some verbs (know, want...) are not normally used in the continuous.

Example:

We were good friends. We **knew** each other well. (NOT **were knowing**)

I was enjoying the party, but Lisa **wanted** to go home. (NOT **was wanting**)

### For

“For + a period of time” is used to say how long something goes on.

Example:

for one hour                      for a week                      for ages

We watched TV **for** one hour last night.

David is going away **for** a week in October.

### During

“During + noun” is used to say when something happens (NOT how long).

Example:

during the class                      during our holiday

during the night

He fell asleep during the class.

We visited some nice places during our holiday.

### While

“While + subject + verb” is used to say when something happens.

Example:

during + noun	while + subject + verb
I fell asleep during the class.	I fell asleep while I was studying.
We visited some nice places during our holiday.	We visited some nice places while we were on holiday.

**Note:** When you are talking about the future, use the present (NOT will) after while.

Example:

I'm going to Hanoi next week. I hope to see some friends of mine while I'm there. (not ~~while I will be there.~~)

What are you going to do while you're waiting? (NOT ~~while you'll be waiting~~)

### By

“By” is used to mean not later than.

Example:

I sent the documents to them today, so they should receive them by Monday. (= on or before Monday, not later than Monday)

Lisa should be here by now. (= now or before now)

### Until

“Until” is used to say how long a situation continues.

Example:

I stayed in bed until half past eight.

Lisa will be away until Monday. (She'll be back on Monday.)