

English Plus 2 (Part 3)

Unit 4 Dare!

LANGUAGE FOCUS REFERENCE

Past continuous: affirmative and negative

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

The affirmative form of the past continuous is made with *was* or *were* after the subject. This is followed by the *-ing* form of the main verb.

The negative form is made by putting *not* between *was* or *were* and the *-ing* form of the main verb. Note that in spoken and informal written English, the contracted forms *wasn't* and *weren't* are used.

Past continuous: questions

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

The question form is made by putting *was* or *were* before the subject at the beginning of the question.

Short answers are made with the subject and *was* or *were*, without the *-ing* form of the main verb.

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

What were you doing in the mountains?

Why was she climbing up the tree?

Use

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* (+ time) or *when* (+ a past simple action).

It was raining at ten o'clock yesterday.

What were they doing on Saturday afternoon?

You weren't listening to the teacher when she asked the question.

Past simple and past continuous

Use

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

She was cycling down the mountain when she fell off her bike.

We use the past continuous for the longer action in progress (*was cycling*). We use the past simple (*fell off*) 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 Antarctica when they saw penguins.

They saw penguins while they were travelling across Antarctica.

LANGUAGE FOCUS PRACTICE

Past continuous: affirmative and negative

- 1 Complete the sentences with *was*, *wasn't*, *were* or *weren't*.

We were listening to music on our MP3 player. ✓

- 1 It _____ raining again this afternoon. ✓
2 She _____ talking to Laura on the phone. X
3 You _____ walking to school. X
4 He _____ driving across Europe on holiday. ✓
5 They _____ sailing around the Mediterranean. X

- 2 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of these verbs.

cycle not talk have not rain
not study watch not wear

Yesterday afternoon ...

Dave was watching a film on TV.

- 1 Ana and Carmen _____ through the park on their bikes.
2 Jake _____ a coat.
3 I _____ lunch with my parents.
4 It _____ – it was sunny.
5 We _____ because it was a holiday!
6 I _____ to Gina, because she was asleep.

Past continuous: questions

- 3 Write questions using the past continuous.

what / you / do / yesterday

What were you doing yesterday?

- 1 why / your sister / carry / a big bag

- 2 Sam / play / in the basketball match

- 3 your friends / walk / near the river

- 4 what / they / talk about

- 5 where / the train / go

- 6 who / you / talk to

Past simple and past continuous

- 4 Choose the correct words.

When Emma arrived / was arriving at the airport, her mother waited / was waiting for her.

- 1 It started / was starting to snow while we watched / were watching the match.
2 The tourists drove / were driving across the desert when they had / were having an accident.
3 I saw / was seeing a famous actor near the theatre. He wore / was wearing sunglasses.
4 Tomiko met / was meeting a Japanese boy while she travelled / was travelling across Australia.
5 We were skiing / skied down the mountain when Tom was falling / fell over.
6 You didn't wear / weren't wearing a cycle helmet when you arrived / were arriving home.
7 Rob and Kate arrived / were arriving while we watched / were watching TV.

- 5 Complete the email using the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.



Hi, Amy!

Guess what! I was cycling (cycle) home from school today when suddenly a little boy ¹ _____ (walk) in front of me. He ² _____ (not look) and his mum and dad ³ _____ (chat). I ⁴ _____ (go) very fast on my bike but I ⁵ _____ (stop) before I hit the boy. His mum was very nice and she ⁶ _____ (say) sorry to me.

See you tomorrow,
Noah

English Plus 2

Answers

Language focus practice

Exercise 1. 1 was 2 wasn't 3 weren't 4 was 5 weren't

Exercise 2. were cycling 3 wasn't wearing 4 was having 5 wasn't raining 6 wasn't talking

Exercise 3. 1 Why was your sister carrying a bib bag? 2 Was Sam playing in the basketball match? 3 Were your friends walking near the river? 4 What were they talking about? 5 Where was the train going? 6 Who were you talking to?

Exercise 4. 1 started; were watching 2 were driving; had 3 saw; was wearing 4 met; was travelling 5 were skiing; fell 6 weren't wearing; arrived 7 arrived; were watching

Exercise 5. 1 walked 2 wasn't looking 3 were chatting 4 was going 5 stopped 6 said