

Past Continuous

was/were + -ing, 4 exercises + answer key

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

was/were + verb-ing · I was reading when she called.

1 Exercise 1

EASY

Choose the correct Past Continuous form.

Word bank: was/were + -ing

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. At 8pm she ____ TV. | 2. They ____ football in the rain. |
| 3. I ____ when she knocked. | 4. He ____ to music at noon. |
| 5. We ____ dinner when she came. | 6. ____ it raining when you left? |
| 7. The kids ____ all afternoon. | 8. She ____ a shower then. |
| 9. What ____ you doing at midnight? | 10. I _____. Please pay attention! |

2 Exercise 2

MEDIUM

Write the Past Continuous form.

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. She (read) ____ when I arrived. | 2. They (wait) ____ for an hour. |
| 3. He (not/listen) ____ to me. | 4. What (you/do) ____ at midnight? |
| 5. I (study) ____ all evening. | 6. It (rain) ____ when we left. |
| 7. We (not/expect) ____ guests. | 8. She (talk) ____ for an hour. |
| 9. (they/travel) ____ at that time? | 10. The dog (sleep) ____ all day. |

3 Exercise 3

HARD

Past Continuous or Past Simple?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. While I ____ TV, she cooked. | 2. He stood up and ____ the room. |
| 3. They ____ bell rang. | 4. While she ____, he cooked. |
| 5. I ____ my keys while cleaning. | 6. It ____ all day, so we stayed in. |
| 7. She ____ when I said hello. | 8. He ____ and broke his arm. |
| 9. I ____ when earthquake struck. | 10. She ____ the door and walked in. |

4

Exercise 4

HARDEST

Write the correct tense form.

1. While I (walk) ____ it rained.

3. He (not/pay) ____ attention.

5. I (read) ____ when lights went out.

7. She (arrive) ____ left.

9. I (not/pay) ____ attention again.

2. She (find) ____ her wallet then.

4. They (meet) ____ at work.

6. At 3am the baby (cry) ____.

8. He (drive) ____ fast then.

10. They (discuss) ____ when he came.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Easy: was/were + -ing

1 was watching

2 were playing

3 was sleeping

4 was listening

5 were having

6 Was it raining

7 were playing

8 was taking

9 were you doing

10 wasn't listening

2 Exercise 2 Medium: write the form

1 was reading

2 were waiting

3 wasn't listening

4 were you doing

5 was studying

6 was raining

7 weren't expecting

8 was talking

9 were they travelling

10 was sleeping

3 Exercise 3 Hard: Past Cont. vs Simple

1 was watching

2 left

3 left

4 was shopping

5 found

6 was raining

7 was crying

8 fell

9 was sleeping

10 opened

4 Exercise 4 Hardest: choose the tense

1 was walking

2 found

3 wasn't paying

4 met

5 was reading

6 was crying

7 arrived

8 was driving

9 wasn't paying

10 were discussing