

Past Continuous

We use the Past Continuous:

- to set the scene, often at the start of a story.
*Night **was falling** and the Moon **was shining**.*
- to talk about what was happening at a particular moment in the past.
*At ten o'clock he **was composing** in his music room.*
- with the Past Simple to show that a long activity was interrupted by a short one. We usually use *while* or *as* before the Past Continuous.
***While/ As** he **was sitting** at the piano, a small kitten suddenly **ran** across the piano keys.*

Affirmative I/He/She **was listening.**
We/ You/They **were listening.**

Negative I/He/She **wasn't listening.**
We/ You/They **weren't listening.**

Questions **Was** I/he/she **listening?**
Yes, I/he/she **was.** / No, I/he/she **wasn't.**
Were you/we/they **listening?** Yes, you/we/they
were. / No, you/we/they **weren't.**

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

The composer Rossini 1 _____ (write) many operatic masterpieces like *The Barber of Seville*. He was famous for composing his music at the last minute. Sometimes, just an hour before a concert Rossini 2 _____ (still write) the music of it! Rossini was also famous for composing in unusual situations – for example, he 3 _____ (get) the idea for the beginning of his opera *Le Comte Ory* while he 4 _____ (fish) with a friend.

Complete the sentences. Use the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

1 I _____ (read) my brother's diary when he suddenly _____ (come) into the room!

2 Where _____ (you/go) when I _____ (see) you last night?

3 When I _____ (wake) up this morning, it _____ (snow).

4 I _____ (drop) my mobile while I _____ (text) my friend.

5 _____ (you/sleep) when I _____ (phone) this morning?

6 He _____ (not look) where he _____ (go) and _____ (crash) into a tree.