

Simple Past vs. Past Continuous

A horizontal timeline with a vertical line intersecting it. A yellow star labeled '1' is on the horizontal line between 6:30-7:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'I was eating dinner.' to star 1. A yellow star labeled '2' is on the vertical line at 7:15 p.m. A blue arrow points from the text 'He called me.' to star 2. The text 'Past Continuous' is to the left of star 1, and 'Simple Past' is to the right of star 2.

6:30–7:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.

1 2

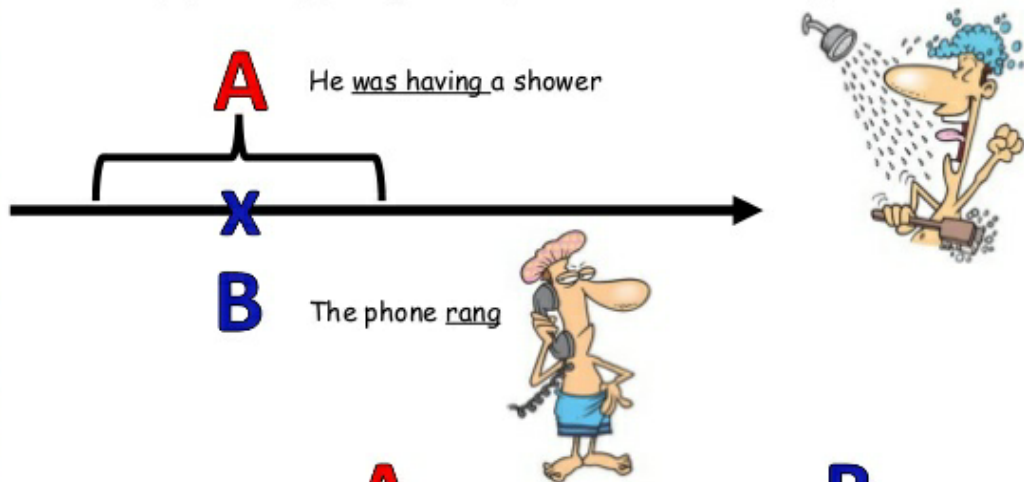
Past Continuous Simple Past

I was eating dinner. He called me.

I was eating dinner when he called me last night.
When he called me last night, I was eating dinner.

Past continuous-Past simple

An action (A) was happening in the past when an action (B) interrupted



WHILE he was having a shower, the the phone rang

He was having a shower, WHEN the the phone rang

SIMPLE PAST-PAST CONTINUOUS

- We often use the **Simple Past Tense** and **Past Continuous Tense** together to say that something happened in the middle of something else.



Past Simple vs. Past Continuous

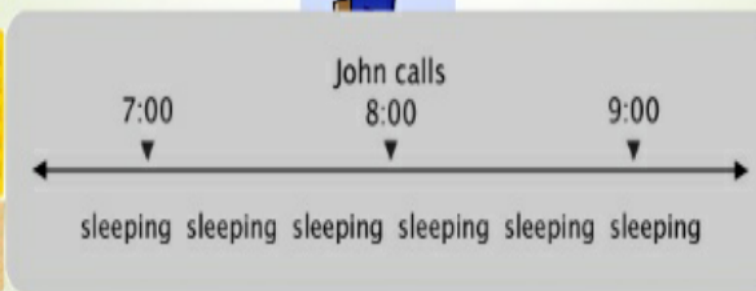
4. We use the past continuous together with the past simple.


The **past continuous** refers to a "longer" or "background" action that was in progress to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted.

The **past simple** refers to a "shorter" action that interrupted the longer action, or happened in the middle of it.



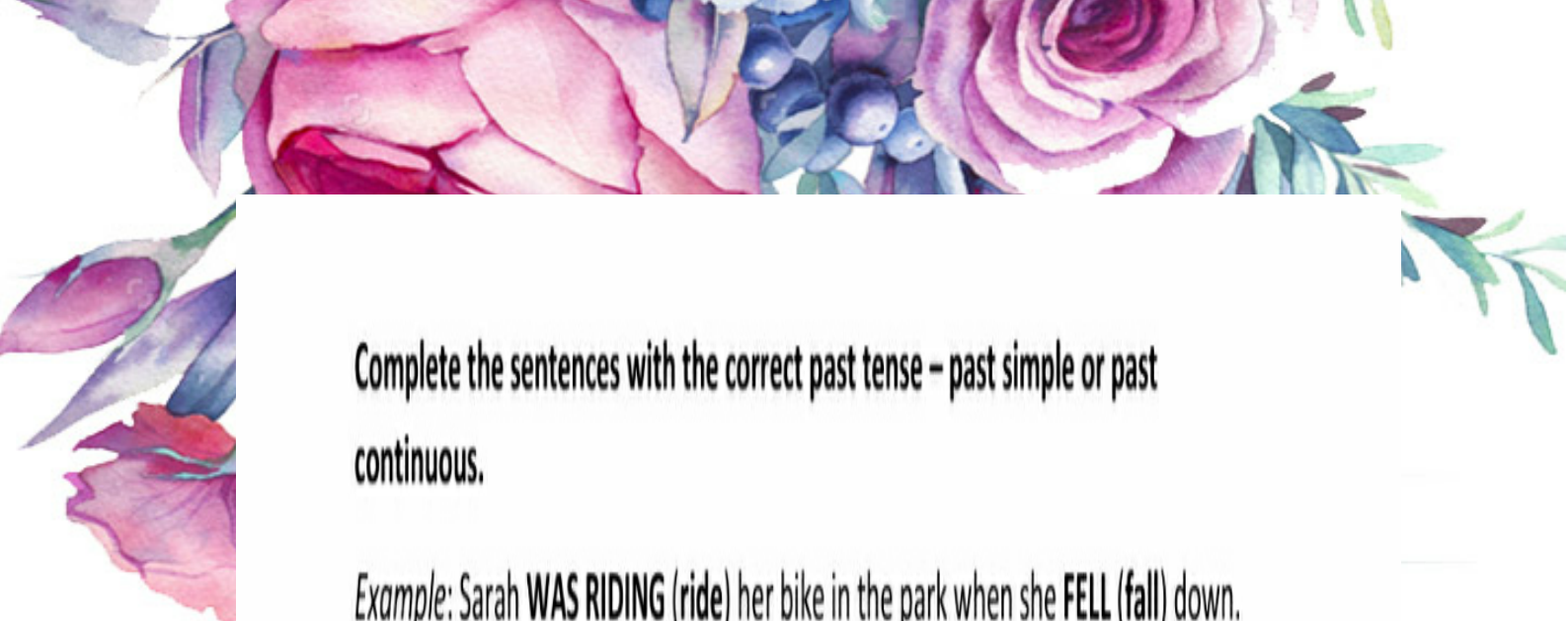
• John's daughter **was sleeping** when he **called** her at 8pm.





Complete the sentences putting the words in brackets into the correct form. Use the past continuous or past simple.

1. Carol (make) **was making** dinner when the phone (ring) **rang**.
2. I (do) _____ my weekly shopping when I (see) _____ Jane.
We (stop) _____ and (have) _____ a chat.
3. We (be) _____ stuck in a traffic jam. We (not know) _____ what to do.
4. Susan (have) _____ the feeling that everyone (look) _____ at her.
5. He (lie) _____ down on the sofa, (open) _____ the book and (start) _____ to read.
6. The boys (enjoy) _____ the film, when suddenly the electricity (go) _____ off.
7. While Dick (try) _____ to get his car started the police car (stop) _____ and the driver (offer) _____ his help. It (is) _____ very nice of him.
8. The kids (make) _____ so much noise that I couldn't hear what he (say) _____ and (ask) _____ him to repeat.
9. He (stand) _____ at the bus stop. I asked him what bus he (wait) _____ for.
10. When I (hear) _____ the doorbell, I (run) _____ downstairs.



Complete the sentences with the correct past tense – past simple or past continuous.

Example: Sarah WAS RIDING (ride) her bike in the park when she FELL (fall) down.

- 1 Tina _____ (play) with a ball when she _____ (break) a window.
- 2 I _____ (sit) in the park when the rain _____ (start).
- 3 They _____ (drive) home when they _____ (see) a bear on the road.
- 4 You _____ (have) a bath when the water _____ (stop).
- 5 Jane _____ (make) a pizza when he _____ (drop) the cheese on the floor.
- 6 Someone _____ (knock) on the door while we _____ (sleep) in our room.





CHOOSE THE SUITABLE ONE



- While I _____ (watched / was watching),
television, the telephone _____ (rang / was ringing)
- When I _____ (walked/was walking) to
college, I
(saw/was seeing) my friend.
- David _____ (fell/was falling) while he

(played/was playing) football.



Let's Practise

1. Fill in the blanks in these sentences given below. Use the correct form of the verbs given in brackets. One has been done for you.

- a. Dhoni **was driving** (drive) when he met his friend.
- b. His friend (walk) down the street when he tripped on the pavement.
- c. They (see) me when I (fall)
- d. I (bath) so I (miss) your call.
- e. We (walk) in the mountains when we (hear) a loud scream.
- f. They (have) so much fun at the party, they (decide) to stay a little longer.
- g. While I (have) a drink in the cafe, I (see) an accident outside.
- h. The teacher (arrive) at 8 a.m. every day but she (arrive) late yesterday.
- i. I (book) tickets online for a movie when the power (go) out.

- j. I (jog) in the evenings.
- k. I (finish) my homework now so that I can
..... (watch) TV later.

2. Read this passage. Change the present continuous verbs into the past continuous form. Also change the other verbs as required.

We are watching a football match. Our club is playing in the finals. The captain is running fast with the ball. He is passing it on to the centre forward. The centre forward is dribbling the ball and is moving quickly towards the opposite goalpost. The captain is following him. He is passing the ball back to the captain, and the captain immediately scores a GOAL!

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Note: Please Solve the exercises of page no 51 & 52 of your English language book and also the exercises of this pdf file, then make a pdf and send it to me for correction.

