

# I was doing (past continuous) and I did (simple past)



Jack **was reading** a book.

The phone **rang**.

He **stopped** reading.

He **answered** the phone.

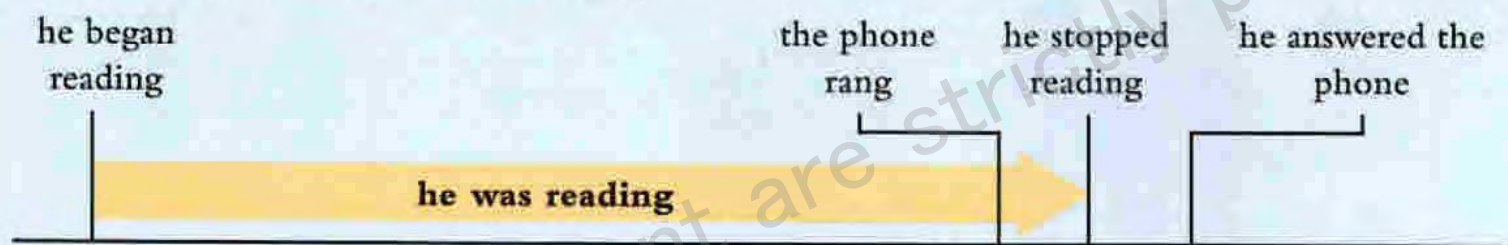
What **happened**? The phone **rang**. (*simple past*)

What **was** Jack **doing** when the phone rang? } (*past continuous*)  
He **was reading** a book.

What **did** he **do** when the phone rang? } (*simple past*)  
He **stopped** reading and **answered** the phone.

Jack began reading *before* the phone rang.

So *when* the phone rang, he **was reading**.



## Simple past

- A: What **did** you **do** yesterday morning?
- B: We **played** tennis. (from 10:00 to 11:30)

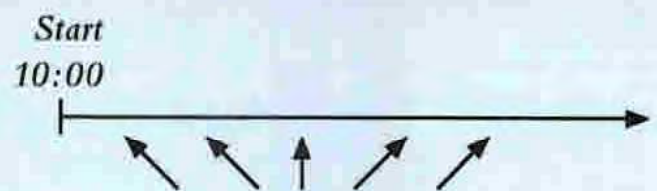


**we played**  
*completed action*

- Jack **read** a book yesterday. (= from beginning to end)
- **Did** you **watch** the basketball game on television last night?
- It **didn't rain** while we were on vacation.

## Past continuous

- A: What **were** you **doing** at 10:30?
- B: We **were playing** tennis.



**we were playing**  
*unfinished action*

- Jack **was reading** a book when the phone rang.
- **Were** you **watching** television when I called you?
- It **wasn't raining** when I got up.

- I **started** work at 9:00 and **finished** at 4:30. At 2:30 I **was working**.
- It **was raining** when we **went** out. (= it started raining *before* we went out)
- I **saw** Lucy and Steve this morning. They **were waiting** at the bus stop.
- Kelly **fell** asleep while she **was reading**.

## 14.1 Look at the pictures. Put the verbs in the correct form, past continuous or simple past.



1. Lucy broke (break) her arm last week.  
It \_\_\_\_\_ (happen) when she \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) her room. She \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) off the ladder.



2. The train \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the station, and Paula \_\_\_\_\_ (get) off. Two friends of hers, Jon and Rachel, \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) to meet her.



3. Yesterday Sue \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) down the street when she \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) James. He \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the station to catch a train, and he \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) a bag. They \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) to talk for a few minutes.

## 14.2 Put the verb into the past continuous or simple past.

- A: What were you doing (you / do) when the phone rang (ring)?  
B: I was watching (watch) television.
- A: Was Jane busy when you went to see her?  
B: Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_ (study).
- A: What time \_\_\_\_\_ (the mail / arrive) this morning?  
B: It \_\_\_\_\_ (come) while I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) breakfast.
- A: Was Tracey at work today?  
B: No, she \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) to work. She was sick.
- A: How fast \_\_\_\_\_ (you / drive) when the police \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) you?  
B: I'm not sure, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / drive) very fast.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (your team / win) the baseball game yesterday?  
B: No, the weather was very bad, so we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / play).
- A: How \_\_\_\_\_ (you / break) the window?  
B: We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) baseball. I \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) the ball and it \_\_\_\_\_ (break) the window.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you / see) Jenny last night?  
B: Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) a very nice jacket.
- A: What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) at 2:00 this morning?  
B: I was asleep.
- A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) my key last night.  
B: How \_\_\_\_\_ (you / get) into your apartment?  
A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (climb) in through a window.