

PAST CONTINUOUS

Form

was/were + verb-ing

Remember: usually **STATIVE VERBS** are **NOT** used in the progressive (-ing) form

Interrupted action in the past

*They **were waiting** for the train when I spoke to them.*

Past habit

*My mom **was always complaining** about my room when she got there.*

Use

Parallel actions

*I **was studying** while my brother **was watching** TV.*

Specific time as an interruption

*Last night at 6 p.m., I **was eating** dinner.*

A series of parallel actions

*When I came to the school, the school bell **was ringing**, many students **were running** towards the garden, teachers were going out from classrooms.*

Emphasis of length of action

- I **was working** in the garden all day.
- She **was preparing** the meal all the morning.

Use

Story background

*While I **was driving** to work yesterday...*

Arrangement in the past

*I was upset because I **was leaving** this place that morning.*

Time Markers

when, while, always, constantly, at that time, in those days, all day, all the morning, all evening, for hours, at this time...

