



The Past Continuous (or past progressive tense)

How can we make the past continuous? Firstly, check that you know how to make the past simple with 'be' (subject + was / were). Then just add verb-ing.

Here's the positive form:

- I was sleeping
- you were working
- he was coming
- she was reading 'War and Peace'
- it was raining
- we were shopping
- they were watching a film

Next, here's the negative - it's very easy, just add 'not':

- I was not (wasn't) sleeping
- you were not (weren't) working
- he was not (wasn't) coming
- she was not (wasn't) reading 'War and Peace'
- it was not (wasn't) raining
- we were not (weren't) shopping
- they were not (weren't) watching a film



And, just like the past simple with 'be', to make a 'yes / no' question, put 'was / were' in front of the subject:

- Was I listening?
- Were you working?
- Was she working?
- Was he living in Paris at the time?
- Was it snowing when you arrived?
- Were we eating?
- Were they studying?

To make a 'wh' question (of course) put the question word at the beginning:

- Why was I working?
- Where were you living?
- How was she travelling?
- Where was he going?
- Why was it snowing in the summer?
- What were we eating?
- Why were they studying?