

Past progressive

Affirmative and negative

1 Complete the sentences with **was**, **were**, **wasn't**, or **weren't**.

- I was walking to the gym last night. (✓)
- 1 You _____ listening to your mother. (x)
- 2 Amy _____ buying a new dress. (x)
- 3 Tony and Ralph _____ playing soccer on Monday afternoon. (✓)
- 4 It was late in the evening and it _____ getting dark. (✓)
- 5 We _____ watching a movie at Joel's house yesterday. (x)

2 Complete the sentences with the past progressive verbs in the box.

were watching ~~was swimming~~ wasn't studying
weren't shopping was listening wasn't playing

- Yesterday morning, Liam was swimming in the ocean.
- 1 Janet and Darlene _____ in town.
- 2 Yesterday afternoon, Lillian _____ to music.
- 3 Dave and Jake _____ a funny movie.
- 4 Yesterday evening, Irene _____ video games.
- 5 Antonio _____ for the test.

Interrogative and short answers

3 Choose the correct alternatives.

- "Were you listening to me?" "Yes, I was / were."
- 1 "Was / Were it snowing on Friday night?" "No, it wasn't."
- 2 "Were you and Erica making a cake yesterday afternoon?"
"No, we **aren't** / weren't."
- 3 "Was / Were Franco and Pamela helping you?" "Yes, they were."
- 4 "Was Tracey using my laptop?" "Yes, she **was** / were."
- 5 "Were you / You were gossiping about me?" "No, I wasn't."

while

4 Choose the correct answers.

Petros A behind you while you were talking about him.

A was standing

B standing

1 Theresa and her friends were watching while I ___ soccer.

A was playing

B were playing

2 While we ___ a good time, Kyle was studying at home.

A were having

B was having

3 I was doing my homework while I ___ to school on the bus this morning.

A was traveling

B travel

4 Gina was laughing while ___ telling your story.

A you was

B you were

5 Everyone ___ while Ernest was playing the guitar.

A were dancing

B was dancing

Past progressive and simple past + when / while

5 Complete the sentences with **when** or **while**.

When my aunt arrived, we were making lunch.

1 _____ we were listening to the teacher, I heard a strange noise.

2 I was sleeping _____ they got home.

3 The snow started _____ I was talking to Mr. Bain.

4 _____ I met my girlfriend, we were traveling in Mexico.

5 It wasn't raining _____ I left home this afternoon.

Past progressive

- 1 Complete the sentences with the past progressive form of one of the verbs in parentheses.**

You weren't reading (not read / not speak) a magazine.

- 1 The boys _____ (not play / not gossip) about me.
- 2 I _____ (cheat / wait) on the Math test.
- 3 _____ Carol _____ (cut / talk) school on Friday?
- 4 Ken _____ (talk / lie) to his mother.
- 5 The children _____ (not stand / not listen) to their teacher.

- 2 Complete the sentences with the past progressive form of the verbs in the box.**

fight listen threaten
read explain not watch

Two girls were threatening me.

- 1 Kira _____ to her parents.
- 2 We _____ TV.
- 3 Steve _____ with another boy.
- 4 The teacher _____ the exercise.
- 5 Dad _____ about a crime.

- 3 Write questions and short answers in the past progressive with the verbs in the box.**

live wear play buy steal

Hans / his new jeans? (✓)

Was Hans wearing his new jeans?

Yes, he was.

- 1 that woman / a blouse from the store? (X)

- 2 Tina / a bus ticket? (✓)

- 3 the children / soccer? (✓)

- 4 we / in Boston? (X)

while

- 4 Write sentences with *while* and the phrases in the chart.**

was watching a movie	saw
were vandalizing	found
was eating	heard
were talking	thought
was playing	fell
were walking	had

While I was watching a movie, I heard the phone ring.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Past progressive and simple past + *when* / *while*

- 5 Write sentences in the past progressive with *while*. Be careful to write *while* in the correct place.**

I / wash / the dishes / I break / a plate.

While I was washing the dishes, I broke a plate.

my boyfriend / call / me / I / sleep.

My boyfriend called me while I was sleeping.

- 1 we / gossip / about the new girl / our teacher / come / in.

- 2 Sue / study / in the classroom / she / lose / her cell phone.


- 3 my cousin / send / me an email / I / read / a book.

- 4 I / lose / my keys / I / walk / in the park.

- 5 I / report / the crime / the police officer / find / my watch.

Reading

Message
Options
+



Hi Jeremy,

How are you? I'm sorry I haven't sent you an email for ages. I was doing exams last week, so I didn't have time for anything else. How's your new school?

Do you remember a boy named Brad Jenkins? He was in our class last year. He was always causing trouble. He was bullying our friend, Maya, in the schoolyard one day, and you told him to stop. He wanted to fight with you, but you didn't. I wanted you to tell one of the teachers about what happened, but you didn't want to.

So, listen to this. On Monday, he was cutting class and Mrs. Dean, the 7th grade English teacher, caught him vandalizing the wall behind the school. He was painting on the wall when she saw him. Mrs. Dean sent him to see the principal, Mr. Clemens. While Brad was talking to the principal, he learned that Brad was having problems at home. Mr. Clemens found out that Brad's mom and dad weren't together and Brad's mom had to work a lot. Some days, she didn't have anyone to look after Brad's younger sister. On those days, while his mom was working, Brad stayed home to look after his younger sister. That's why he was cutting school and telling lies about it.

It's a sad story, but it has a happy ending. Mr. Clemens called some people and they helped Brad's mom find someone to look after her daughter while she was working. Mr. Clemens made Brad clean the paint off the wall behind the school, but that was all.

I think I'm going to talk to Brad at school tomorrow. I think he needs some friends. Do you think that's a good idea?

Talk soon,

Ericka

1 Read the text. Match the sentence halves.

- 1 Brad Jenkins was in b
- 2 Brad was threatening _____
- 3 Brad was vandalizing a wall _____
- 4 The principal decided _____
 - a to help Brad and his mom.
 - ~~b the same class as Ericka and Jeremy last year.~~
 - c when a teacher saw him.
 - d one of Ericka and Jeremy's friends.

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

Who is Mrs. Dean?

She is the 7th grade English teacher.

- 1 What did she do when she saw Brad painting the wall?

- 2 Who are the people that live in Brad's house?

- 3 Why did Brad often stay home from school?

4 Who did Mr. Clemens call?

5 What did Mr. Clemens make Brad do?

6 What is Ericka going to do?

Writing

3 Put the events below in the correct order. More than one option is possible. Then put some of the verbs into the past tense and write a blog post about the events. Remember to use *when* and *while* to describe things that take place at the same time.

- _____ He goes to see the principal.
- _____ He copies a girl's answers.
- 1 _____ Leo has an important test to take.
- _____ The teacher sends him to the principal.
- _____ He is scared / worried.
- _____ The principal punishes him.
- _____ The teacher sees him.
- _____ He doesn't study for it.