

# 59 What was happening when?

To report on past events, such as a crime or accident, you often need to explain what else was happening at the time. Use the past continuous to do this.

 **New language** Past continuous

**Aa Vocabulary** Verb / noun collocations

 **New skill** Talking about events at given times

## 59.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE PAST CONTINUOUS

English uses the past continuous to talk about actions that were in progress at a certain time in the past.

Past simple → **I knocked** on your door at noon but you **weren't** at home. What were you doing?



11:30AM

12:00PM

12:30PM

Past continuous →



**I was having lunch** with a friend.



## 59.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES THE PAST CONTINUOUS

Sorry I missed your call. **I was mowing** the lawn.



He didn't go to the party because **he was working** late.

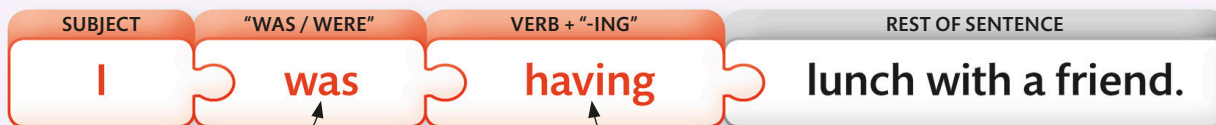


This time last week, **we were hiking** in Peru.



## 59.3 HOW TO FORM THE PAST CONTINUOUS

Use "was" or "were" followed by the verb with "-ing" to form the past continuous.




Use "was" or "were" depending on the subject.


Add "-ing" to the main verb.




## 59.4 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE PAST CONTINUOUS


The children were playing ( play) outside yesterday afternoon.


1 They \_\_\_\_\_ ( sing) in the choir last night. It was a very good concert.

2 You \_\_\_\_\_ ( talk) on the phone at lunchtime today. I didn't want to interrupt your call.

3 Sorry I didn't answer the phone. I \_\_\_\_\_ ( eat) my dinner when you called.

4 She \_\_\_\_\_ ( drive) down my road earlier today. I waved, but she didn't see me.

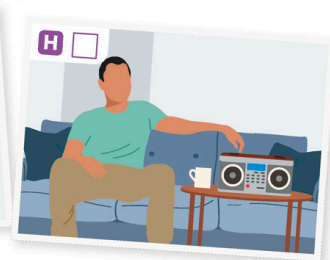
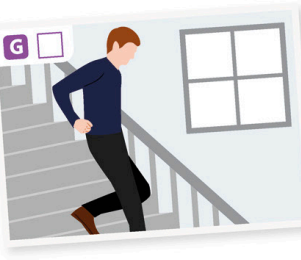
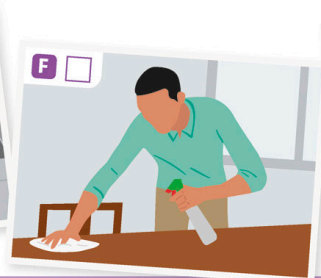
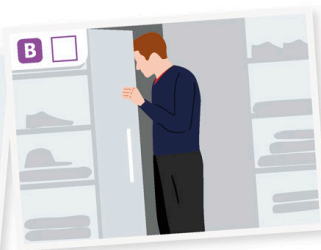
5 He \_\_\_\_\_ ( do) his homework when his friend arrived. So he still has lots to do.

6 Ethan \_\_\_\_\_ ( pick) apples outside this morning. They look absolutely delicious!



## 59.5 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO, THEN NUMBER THE PICTURES IN THE ORDER THEY ARE DESCRIBED

A police officer is interviewing the owner of a house where a burglary has taken place.





## 59.6 READ THE NOTES AND FILL IN THE GAPS IN THE SUMMARY USING THE PAST CONTINUOUS

At 10:30, Mr. Black was gardening when he saw a man get into a car. The man \_\_\_\_\_

jeans and a black t-shirt. At 10:37, Mrs. Gomez \_\_\_\_\_

back from the stores.

Ten minutes later, she saw the same man in a car.

He \_\_\_\_\_ very fast.

Mr. Chandra \_\_\_\_\_ his car at 10:30.

At 10:38, he also saw the same man. The suspect \_\_\_\_\_

up and down the road, and \_\_\_\_\_

at all the houses. Mr. Chandra saw

him again at 10:45. This time, he \_\_\_\_\_

the house next door, and \_\_\_\_\_ a big,

heavy-looking bag.

Time	Name	Activity
10:30	Mr. Black	Gardening.
10:30	Mr. Chandra	Wash car.
10:35	Mr. Black	Saw man in jeans and black t-shirt get into car.
10:37	Mrs. Gomez	Walk back from stores.
10:38	Mr. Chandra	Saw same man walk up and down road, looking at houses.
10:45	Mr. Chandra	Saw man leave next door, carrying big bag.
10:47	Mrs. Gomez	Saw same man driving fast car.



## 59.7 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, FILLING IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE PAST CONTINUOUS

I was cleaning (clean) the kitchen.

1 You \_\_\_\_\_ (vacuum) the living room.

2 She \_\_\_\_\_ (work) outside.

3 They \_\_\_\_\_ (wash) the car.

4 We \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) home.

5 He \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at houses.



## 59.8 READ THE LEAFLET AND WRITE THE HIGHLIGHTED COLLOCATIONS NEXT TO THEIR DEFINITIONS

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Thank you for joining the fight against crime!

REMEMBER: It **takes time** to build a good team, so it's worth **having a discussion** with your neighbors in order to **take a view** on who does what, and decide who should **take charge**.

It's best to have two people "on watch" at the same time. This means that, if you **make a discovery**, you should **make an effort** to discuss it with your neighbor in order to **make sense of** what you've seen.

Once you are sure the activity is suspicious, you need to **have a plan** about what to do. It's tempting to rush things if you want to **make progress**, but don't approach a suspect, unless you are certain it's safe to do so. Criminals will **take advantage** of any situation if they **have the chance** to do so and you may put yourself in danger.

Lead a team

= take charge

- 1 Put work into something = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Understand = \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Know what to do = \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Happen slowly = \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Talk about things = \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Have an opportunity = \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Form an opinion = \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Benefit from a situation = \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Find something out = \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Achieve something = \_\_\_\_\_



## 59.9 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE PHRASES IN THE PANEL

You need to make an effort if you want to succeed.

- 1 This project will \_\_\_\_\_, but I must get it right.
- 2 Thanks for helping me \_\_\_\_\_ my homework.
- 3 It's good to \_\_\_\_\_ to solve problems.
- 4 Let's meet up next week if we \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 You must not let people \_\_\_\_\_ of you.

take time

~~make an effort~~

take advantage

have a discussion

have the chance

make sense of



### 59 CHECKLIST



Past continuous ☐

Aa Verb / noun collocations ☐



Talking about events at given times ☐