

The Past Continuous Tense

I was working

You **were** working

She/He/It was working

We **were** working

You **were** working

They **were** working

Applications:

1. To describe actions taking place at a particular point in time in the past:
 - “At 5am ***I was sleeping*** like a baby.”
 - “At 4.30pm on February 17th, 2006, ***we were*** all ***watching*** Liverpool beat Man Utd in the FA Cup.
2. To describe interrupted actions or events:
 - “***While I was doing*** my homework, the telephone rang.”
 - “I **stepped** in some chewing gum ***while I was walking*** to school.”
3. To describe the background of a story:
 - “***Everyone was having*** a good time at the party **when** suddenly someone **started** screaming.”
 - “***It was raining*** outside so I **decided** to stay in bed.

N.B. The Past Simple tense is used to describe a sequence of events:

“I **woke** up, **got** out of bed, **dragged** a comb across my head.”