PAST PROGRESSIVE OR “CONTINUOUS” TENSE

We use the past progressive or past continuous to describe an action that was happening in a certain moment and we don’t know if the action is finished or not.

**Examples:**
My brother was **watching** TV when I left this morning. What was your brother **doing** when you left this morning? He was **watching** TV.

My mother was **cooking** when you called. What was your mother **doing** when I called? My mother was **cooking**.

The structure is as follows:
**SUBJECT + TO BE IN PAST + VERB IN -ING + COMPLEMENT + EXPRESSION OF PAST TIME**

**Examples:**
They were **studying** for the test last Saturday.
Were they **studying** for the test last Saturday?
Yes, they were **studying** for the test last Saturday. No, they weren’t **studying** for the test last Saturday.

It was **raining** when we came back from the party. Was it **raining** when you came back from the party? Yes, it was **raining** when we came back from the party.
No, It wasn’t **raining** when we came back from the party.
Typical questions in this tense are:

**WHAT were you __________?**

**WHERE were you __________?**

**Examples:**
Where were you **going** last night?
What were you **doing** yesterday at the library?
Note: We can also use connectors to describe two actions that were happening at the same time. They are: **and, while, when, but not.**

**Examples:**
She was studying **and** memorizing the book at the same time.
They were dancing **while** the others were sleeping.
We were playing **but not** making noise.
Peter was writing **while** his father was listening to music. John was sleeping **when** the accident happened.
Get Smart!  Quiz A

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb “To Be” (was-were) plus the “ing” form of the verb given in parenthesis. Pay attention to punctuation. Follow the examples:
My father ____________ in his bed.
My father was sleeping in his bed.

1. Mark __________ his homework. (do)
2. The girls __________ in the playground. (play)
3. You __________ too fast. (drive)
4. The students ___________ in their notebooks. (write)
5. My friend __________ through the park this morning. (jog)
6. They __________ for a little while. (rest)
7. He __________ for the final exam. (exam)
8. My uncle __________ the newspaper in the living room. (read)
9. My sister __________ her favorite program on TV. (watch)
10. My mother __________ dinner when we got home. (make)
11. Sheila __________ food for the party. (food)
12. The kids __________ after the soccer ball. (run)
13. He __________ on the phone for hours. (talk)
14. The teachers __________ the assignment to his students. (explain)
15. The secretary __________ a report for her boss. (type)
16. The mechanic __________ my car. (fix)
17. We __________ for the bus at the bus stop. (wait)
18. Peter __________ lunch with his friends. (have)
19. My parents __________ when I got home. (sleep)
20. My uncle _________ to his favorite music. (listen)

21. The dog _________ a hole in the back yard. (dig)

22. They _________ at us. (laugh)

23. She _________ at us for a long time. (look)

24. My friend _________ a shower when I called him. (take)

25. The reporter _________ me too many questions. (ask)

26. The detective _________ the suspect. (interrogate)

27. Christopher _________ old songs at the party. (sing)

28. The train _________ really fast. (travel)

29. I _________ the dishes when you came. (wash)

30. My boss _________ at his desk this morning. (sit)