

PAST SIMPLE OR CONTINUOUS

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Describe what was happening when something happened.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Add a detail, then ask a follow-up question.

A: How **did** you **break** your glasses?

B: I **was cleaning** them when I **dropped** them on the floor.

A: Oh, no! Can you still wear them?

2. BACKGROUND AND EVENTS

1. What **were** you **doing** when your last visitor arrived?
2. Where **were** you **sitting** when this lesson started?
3. What **were** you **doing** when you last got a message?
4. **Did** anyone **call** while you **were eating** yesterday?
5. What **were** you **doing** when you last heard a loud noise?
6. What **did** you **do** when you heard it?

Keep talking: What happened next? / What were you doing before that?

3. A SMALL SURPRISE

Choose a real or imagined surprise, such as a call, a visitor or a sudden shower.

7. What **was happening** before the surprise?
8. What suddenly **happened**?
9. How **did** you **react**?
10. What **were** other people **doing** at the time?

4. BUILD A SHORT STORY

Begin: I was walking home when ... Your partner adds an event and asks a question.

Continue the story with two more details. Then swap roles.

Example: I **was walking** home when it **started** raining. / What **did** you **do**?

Answer help: I was ...-ing when ... / While we were ...-ing, ... happened.

Remember: past continuous = background; past simple = the main event.