

Pre-Lesson Comprehension

Target Language: *past progressive tense*

Focus: In this lesson, you will understand and be able to use the *past progressive tense* to talk about finished actions in the past.

Read and understand the target language below.

We use the **past progressive tense** to talk about finished actions in the past. It describes an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past. The structure is: **was / were (not) + present participle (verb -ing)**.

- I **was studying** all day yesterday. I'm tired!
- He **was living** in Hawaii for three years.
- They **weren't staying** with friends in New York.

We use the **past progressive** to emphasize a temporary action. For example:

- It **was raining** hard this morning, so I stayed home.
- Lesley **was looking** for a new computer. Hers broke.
- She **wasn't drinking** coffee for two weeks.

The **past progressive tense** also shows a repeated action in the past. For example:

- I **was studying** every weekend last semester. All of my classes were very hard.
- My daughter **was waking up** with nightmares for months after she saw a scary movie.
- My husband **wasn't speaking** English at work until his new boss from America came.

For any question with the **past progressive tense**, use the following structures:

Closed Questions: was / were + subject + present participle (verb -ing)

Q: **Was** it **raining** all day yesterday?

A: Yes, it **was** (**raining**).

No, it **wasn't** (**raining**).

Open Questions: wh-question + was / were + subject + present participle (verb -ing)

Q: **What were** you **doing** in Chicago?

A: I **was studying** economics at Northwestern University.

Pre-Lesson Practice

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Practice: Now try an activity to help you use the target language.

Complete the sentences with the past continuous tense.

Q: What **(do)** *were* you *doing* this morning? You were late.

A: I **(sleep)** . My alarm clock didn't ring, so I overslept.

Q: **(shop)** Laura today?

A: Yes, she **(shop)** at the mall all day. There were many sales.

Q: **(study)** you in the library?

A: Yes. My roommate was too noisy. He **(watch)** football on TV.

Q: What **(do)** Agnes in Singapore?

A: She **(teach)** English for a few years. She loved it!

Q: Where **(eat)** Jimmy lunch today? He usually eats in the cafeteria, but I couldn't find him.

A: He didn't eat lunch today. He **(meet)** with his teacher.

Q: Who **(sing)** just now? Her voice sounded beautiful!

A: I **(think)** the same thing. She sings very well.

Answers

Target Language: *past progressive tense*

Complete the sentences with the past continuous tense.

Q: What **were** you **doing** this morning? You were late.

A: I **was sleeping**. My alarm clock didn't ring, so I overslept.

Q: **Was** Laura **shopping** today?

A: Yes, she **was shopping** at the mall all day. There were many sales.

Q: **Were** you **studying** in the library?

A: Yes. My roommate was too noisy. He **was watching** football on TV.

Q: What **was** Agnes **doing** in Singapore?

A: She **was teaching** English for a few years. She loved it!

Q: Where **was** Jimmy **eating** lunch today? He usually eats in the cafeteria, but I couldn't find him.

A: He didn't eat lunch today. He **was meeting** with his teacher.

Q: Who **was singing** just now? Her voice sounded beautiful!

A: I **was thinking** the same thing. She sings very well.