

Past Continuous

A Complete the sentences with the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- The students were sitting (sit) in their chairs when the teacher came in.
- your mum (sleep) yesterday at four o'clock?
- We (leave) the house when the phone rang.
- you (make) a noise at 12 o'clock last night?
- The boy took a biscuit while his mother (cook).
- Mum and Dad (not shop) at one o'clock.

B Write each sentence in the negative form. Then write new affirmative sentences using the words in brackets. Pay attention to the underlined words.

- My brother was reading at nine o'clock. (eight o'clock)
a My brother wasn't reading at nine o'clock.
b He was reading at eight o'clock.
- Sarah and Danny were studying at six o'clock. (watch TV)
a
b
- I was waiting for my friend all morning. (the postman)
a
b
- The dogs were sleeping in the garden all day. (play)
a
b

C Write questions using the words below. Use the Past Continuous.

- you / sleep / at 11.00 / last night / ?
Were you sleeping at 11.00 last night?
- the students / play / during the break / ?
.....
- your teacher / shout / this morning / ?
.....
- Sally / shop / all afternoon / ?
.....

D Complete the sentences with the Past Continuous or Past Simple of the verbs in brackets.

- He was waiting (wait) for the bus when his father arrived (arrive).
- The girls (swim) outside when it (start) to get cold.
- I (listen) to the radio while I (read).
- When his mother (come) home, the baby (sleep).
- When the phone (ring), I (write) a letter.
- They (dance) when the music suddenly (stop).

E Complete the sentences with *when* or *while*.

- I was watching TV while my parents were reading the newspaper.
- Where were you going I saw you in the street yesterday?
- Was the dog barking you came home?
- The fire started Dad was cooking dinner.

Past Continuous – Answers

- A**
- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | were sitting | 4 | Were ... making |
| 2 | Was ... sleeping | 5 | was cooking |
| 3 | were leaving | 6 | weren't shopping |
- B**
- a My brother wasn't reading at nine o'clock.
b He was reading at eight o'clock.
 - a Sarah and Danny weren't studying at six o'clock.
b They were watching TV.
 - a I wasn't waiting for my friend all morning.
b I was waiting for the postman.
 - a The dogs weren't sleeping in the garden all day.
b They were playing.
- C**
- 1 Were you sleeping at 11.00 last night?
 - 2 Were the students playing during the break?
 - 3 Was your teacher shouting this morning?
 - 4 Was Sally shopping all afternoon?
- D**
- 1 was waiting; arrived
 - 2 were swimming; started
 - 3 was listening; was reading
 - 4 came; was sleeping
 - 5 rang; was writing
 - 6 were dancing; stopped
- E**
- | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1 | while | 3 | when |
| 2 | when | 4 | while |