

TO KNOW MORE

We use the past continuous to talk about the past:

- For something which **happened before and after another action**:

The children **were doing** their homework when I got home.

Compare: The children **did** their homework when (= after) I **got** home.

This use of the past continuous is very common at the beginning of a story:

The other day **I was waiting** for a bus when ...

Last week, as **I was driving** to work, ...

For something that **happened before and after a specific time:**

It was **eight o'clock**. I **was writing** a letter.

Compare: At eight o'clock I wrote (= started writing) some letters

- To show that something **continued for some time:**

My head **was aching**.

Everyone **was shouting**.

- For something that **happened again and again:**

I **was practicing** every day, three times a day.

They **were meeting** secretly after school.

They **were always quarrelling**.

Reference:

British Council (s.f.). Past continuous. Retrieved from:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/past-continuous>