

**Past continuous (I was doing)****A) Form of Past continuous:-**

he/she/it + was+ verb + ing+ complement.

- I was living in Hong Kong.

we/you/they were+ verb + ing+ complement.

- they were playing football.

**B) Uses of the Past continuous:-**

- 1- I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing it at a certain time. The action or situation started before this time, but had not finished: e.g.
  - This time last year I was living in Hong Kong.
  - What were you doing at 10 o'clock last night?
  - I waved to Helen, but she wasn't looking.
- 2- You can say that something happened (past simple) in the middle of something else (past continuous) e.g.,
  - Matt phoned while we were having dinner.
  - It was raining when I got up.
  - I saw you in the park yesterday. You were sitting on the grass and reading a book.
  - I hurt my back while I was working in the garden.
- 3- we use the past simple to say that one thing happened after another:-

- I was walking along the road when I saw Dan. So I stopped, and we talked for a while

**C) Compare I was doing (past continuous) and I did (past simple)**

was doing (= in the middle of an action)

We were walking home when I met Dan

(in the middle of walking home) .

Kate was watching TV when we arrived.

I did (= complete action) --

We walked home after the party

(= all the way, completely)

Kate watched TV a lot when she was

ill last year.

**D) Verbs that are not used in the continuous:-**

Some verbs (for example, know and want) are not normally used in continuous forms (is + -ing, was + -ing etc.)

Like, want, need, prefer, know, realize, understand, recognize, believe, suppose, remember, mean, belong, fit, contain, consist, seem

- We were good friends. We knew each other well. (not we were knowing)

- I was -enjoying the party, but Chris wanted to go home. (not was wanting