

# Unit 9

Lecture 27

# Unit Objectives

## *Things happen*

*In Unit 9, you learn how to . . .*

- use the past continuous for events in progress in the past.
- use *myself, yourself, himself*, etc.
- talk about accidents and things that went wrong.
- react to other people's stories.
- use the expression *I bet . . .*



1

broke something



2

forgot something



3

lost something



4

damaged something



# Are you having a bad week?

## Sean Davis



“ Actually, yes. I was going to work on the train Monday morning, and I was talking to this woman. I guess I wasn’t paying attention, and I missed my stop. I was half an hour late for a meeting with my new boss. ”



# Are you having a bad week?

## Robert Moreno

"Yeah a kind of. A couple of days ago, a friend and I were waving to a friend at the mall. We weren't looking, and we walked right into a glass door. I was so embarrassed."





# Are you having a bad week?



## Julia Chen

“ Oh, definitely! A friend of mine accidentally deleted all my music files yesterday when she was using my computer. I tried for hours to find them, but nothing worked. I lost everything! ”



Can you choose the correct verb forms in these sentences?

1. Sean **talked** / **was talking** to a woman on the train, and he **missed** / **was missing** his stop.
2. Julia's friend **deleted** / **was deleting** her files when she **used** / **was using** Julia's computer.
3. Roberto and his friend **tried** / **were trying** to look cool when they **walked** / **were walking** into a glass door.

# Past Continuous

The past continuous is used to talk about actions and events in progress in the past.

## Form

- **Affirmative Statements**

subject + was / were + present participle

*I was talking.*

*They were watching TV.*

- **Negative Statements**

subject + wasn't / weren't + present participle

*I wasn't paying attention*

*We weren't looking.*



# Past Continuous Forms

Positive	Negative	Question
I was working.	I was not working.	Was I working?
You were working.	You were not working.	Were you working?
We were working.	We were not working.	Were we working?
They were working.	They were not working.	Were they working?
He was working.	He was not working.	Was he working?
She was working.	She was not working.	Was she working?
It was working.	It was not working.	Was it working?

# Past Continuous

## Use

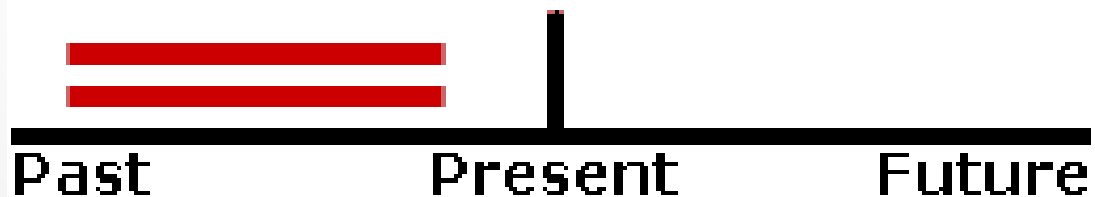
1. To talk about actions and events in progress in the past  
These may be temporary or unfinished.

*Helen **was using** my computer last night.*

*Last year, I **was living** in Riyadh.*

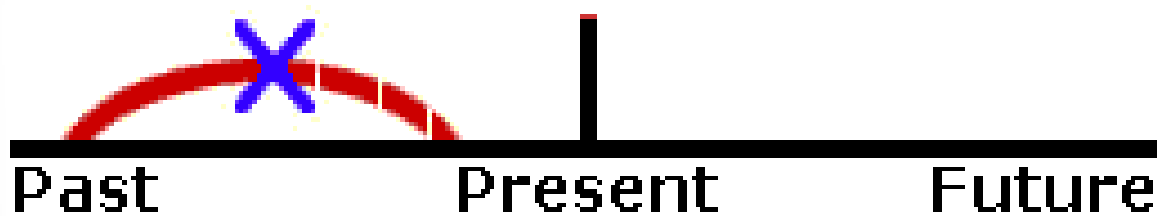
2. To set the background for a story, telling about longer actions

*I **was going** to work, and I **was talking** to my friend.*



# Past Continuous with Simple Past

The Past Continuous is often used when one action in progress is interrupted by another action in the past. The Past simple is used in such sentences



A friend of mine deleted all my files (*short action*)  
when she was using my computer (*background, longer action*)

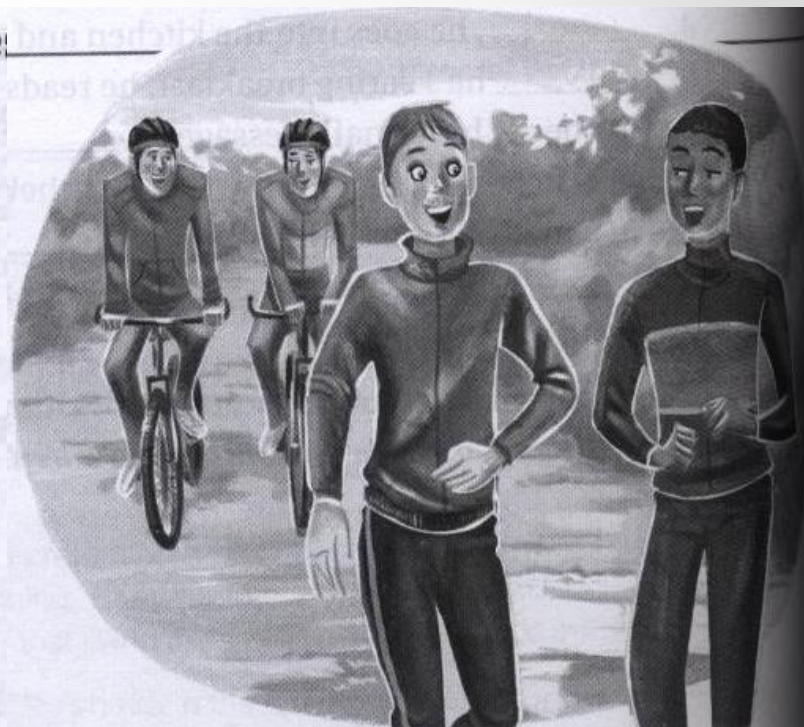
She *was studying* when the phone *rang*.



# 1 What were they doing?

Circle the correct verb forms in these stories

1. A friend and I **ran** / **were running** in the park, and these guys **rode** / **were riding** their bikes behind us. We didn't hear them because we **talked** / **were talking**. Anyway, we **decided** / **were deciding** to stop because I was tired, and one of the guys **bumped** / **was bumping** right into me. And then they just **rode** / **were riding** away!



2. An embarrassing thing **happened** / **was happening** when I **studied** / **was studying** at university. At my first presentation, when I **walked** / **was walking** to the front of the room, I **saw** / **was seeing** a lot of people. I **got** / **was getting** so scared that I completely **forgot** / **was forgetting** my presentation. So I just **stood** / **was standing** on the stage, and then I **said** / **was saying**, "Thank you." After that, I **walked** / **was walking** off and **went** / **was going** home.



**A** Complete the anecdotes with the past continuous or simple past.

1. A few weeks ago, when I was making (make) dinner, my friend called (call). I completely forgot (forget) about the food on the stove, and I burnt (burn) everything!
2. I damaged (damage) my parents' car last week. I was driving (drive) to work, and I ran (run) into a stop sign. Now I have to pay for the repairs.
3. Last week, I hurt (hurt) my foot when I was doing (do) aerobics. I don't know why, but I just fell (fall). I felt so stupid.
4. I was having (have) lunch in a restaurant yesterday when the server accidentally spilled (spill) water all over me! It was embarrassing, but then I got (get) my lunch for free.
5. My friend and I were talking (talk) in class, and we weren't paying (not pay) attention. Suddenly we realized the teacher was standing (stand) right beside us. He and the whole class were listening (listen) to us!