

# PAST PROGRESSIVE

## MEANING

Events in progress at a particular time in the past



At 7 o'clock last night John **WAS HAVING** dinner.

An action in progress interrupted by a shorter action in the past

The phone rang while I **WAS EATING** dinner.

She **WAS WALKING** home when she heard a loud scream.

We normally use **WHILE** (or **AS**) in the past progressive clause and **WHEN** in the past simple clause.

Two events in progress at the same time in the past

I **WAS READING** a book while my wife **WAS WATCHING** a movie.

Repeated events in the past

We can use past progressive with words like **ALWAYS** and **FOREVER** to talk about things that happened repeatedly.

He **WAS** always **BITING** his nails!

Setting the scene in a story

"Batman **WAS ENJOYING** a relaxing day at home. It **WAS RAINING** hard and the wind **WAS HOWLING**. Suddenly, Batman saw the bat signal in the sky and Robin ran into the room."

Stative verbs

We don't usually use stative verbs in the progressive form.  
We cannot say: "I **WAS KNOWING** Anna"

I **KNEW** Anna.