

## Teacher's Guide

### What Were You Doing When...? (Past Continuous) - Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)



Canva Presentation Link: [🌐 What Were You Doing When...? \(Past Continuous\)](#)

Editable Presentation Link: [🌐 What Were You Doing When...? \(Past Continuous\)](#)

Editable Worksheet Link:

[🌐 Student Worksheet: What Were You Doing When...? \(Past Continuous\)](#)

**Part 1.** Students think about one small but memorable moment and describe what they were doing before it happened. Students write or say 2–3 sentences describing the situation.

#### Example:

*I was standing in a queue at the supermarket. I was checking my phone and half-listening to music.*

**Part 2.** Students read the text and answer the questions.

#### Answer key:

1. The writer felt productive and organised.
2. They were cleaning, playing music, messaging a friend.
3. The washing machine started leaking.

**Part 3.** Students complete the sentences.

#### Suggested answers:

1. an action in progress
2. a completed action / interruption

**Part 4.** Students read each situation and first imagine the background. Students then add what suddenly happened.

#### Examples:

1. *I was trying to unlock my front door when I realised I had the wrong keys.*
2. *We were taking a photo together when someone walked directly in front of us.*
3. *I was sending an important email when I noticed I had attached the wrong file.*
4. *She was explaining something confidently when her phone suddenly rang.*

**Part 5.** Students think of a moment when they were doing two things at the same time and something didn't go perfectly.

#### Example:

*While I was cooking, I was also answering a message, and then I burnt the food.*

**Part 6.** Students discuss the questions.

**Part 7.** Students create a short story about a slightly awkward or unexpected moment. Ensure they include:

- Two background actions (past continuous)
- One clear interruption (past simple)
- One reaction

**Example:**

*I was trying to look calm during an online meeting. I was sharing my screen confidently. Then I realised everyone could see my private messages. I immediately stopped talking.*

**Reflection**

Students complete the sentences with their own ideas.