

I was doing (past continuous) and I did (past simple)

A. Combining Past Continuous & Past Simple

- Rohan was reading a book when the phone rang.
- He stopped reading and answered the phone.
- What **happened**? The phone **rang**. (*Past Simple*)
- What **was Rohan doing** when the phone rang? He **was reading** a book. (*Past Continuous*)

COMPREHENSIVE TIMELINE
He began reading
↓
HE WAS READING (Continuous)
[Phone rang] → Stopped → Answered

Rohan began reading *before* the phone rang.
Therefore: **When the phone rang, he was reading.**

B. Past Simple vs. Past Continuous Comparison

PAST SIMPLE (COMPLETE ACTION)		PAST CONTINUOUS (UNFINISHED ACTION)	
Usage	Used for a finished, completed action in the past.	Usage	Used for an ongoing action interrupted or happening at a specific time in the past.
Examples	• What did you do yesterday morning? We played tennis (from 10 to 11:30). • Neha read a book yesterday (from start to finish). • Did you watch the film last night? • It didn't rain while we were on holiday.	Examples	• What were you doing at 10:30? We were playing tennis. • Neha was reading a book when the phone rang. • Were you watching TV when I phoned? • It wasn't raining when I got up.

C. Additional Practice Examples

- I **started** work at 9:00 and **finished** at 4:30. At 2:30 I **was working**.
- It **was raining** when we **went** out (*it started raining before we went out*).
- I **saw** Pooja and Rahul this morning. They **were waiting** at the bus stop.
- Amit **fell** asleep while he **was reading**.