

## Basic SPOKEN ENGLISH WITH



**Uzzthaaz Zaki** 





# PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

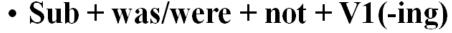


#### **Past Continuous Tense**

Past continuous tense expresses the actions or task that were ongoing in the past. We cannot determine when the action started or finished.



- Sub+was/were + V1(-ing)
- He was traveling to Venice.



- He was not traveling to Venice.
- Was/were + Sub + V1(-ing) + ?
- Was he traveling to Venice?



The past continuous is made from the past tense of the verb be and the –ing form of a verb:

• For something which happened before and aft er another action:

The children were doing their homework when I got home.

Compare: The children did their homework when (= after) I got home.

This use of the past continuous is very common at the beginning of a story:

The other day I was waiting for a bus when ...

Last week, as I was driving to work, ...



 For something that happened before and after a specific time:

It was <u>eight o'clock</u>. I was writing a letter.
Compare: At eight o'clock I wrote (= started writing) some letters.

 To show that something continued for some time:

My head was aching.

Everyone was shouting.



• For something that **happened again and again**:

I was practising every day, three times a day. They were meeting secretly after school. They were always quarrelling.

With verbs which show change or growth:

The children were growing up quickly. Her English was improving.
My hair was going grey.
The town was changing quickly.





