4.Past Continuous

⮚Form: was/were + ing. Examples:  
•You were studying when she called.  
•Were you studying when she called?  
•You were not studying when she called.  
⮚Uses of the Past Continuous•Use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the Simple Past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.  
✓I was watching TV when she called.  
•You can also use a specific time as an interruption: Last night at 6 PM, I was eating dinner.  
•When you use the Past Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.  
✓I was studying while he was making dinner.  
•In English, we often use a series of parallel actions to describe the atmosphere at a particular time in the  
past: When I walked into the office, several people were busily typing, some were talking on the phones, and he boss was yelling directions.  
•The Past Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happened in the past. The concept is very similar to the expression "used to"  
but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb  
+ ing." Example: She was always coming to class late.

***Exercise 1: Correct the sentences if necessary or put a (*✓*) if it is correct.***1 Whenever I called in on Sam, he talked on the phone.  
2 When I lived in Paris, I was spending three hours a day travelling to and from work.  
3 Peterson was winning the tournament four times before he retired.  
4 We were having to play netball twice a week when I went to school.  
5 The weather was so good last summer that we went to the beach most weekends.  
***Exercise 2: Complete the sentences using the past simple or the past continuous in the other or both.***1. Just as I *…………..* into the class the fire alarm ……….. off. *(go/get)*2. Helen …………. her leg while she ……………… in Switzerland. *(break/ski)*3. When his mother ……………….. in the other direction Steve ………………away quietly. *(slip/look)*4. I ……………… the windows as soon as ……………. it to rain. *(work/meet)*5. I'm sorry, I ……………… I …………….. about Jim. *(concentrate/think)*6. It was an amazing coincidence. Just as I ………… to Anne, she ……….. to my house to come and see me. *(write/drive)*7. When the taxi …………. I …………. my suitcase on the back seat. *(come/put)*8. He ………………. the cake out of the oven and it ………….. carefully on the table. *(take/place)*