



# PAST CONTINUOUS - FORM

## AFFIRMATIVE

SUBJ. + WAS / WERE + V-ING

Richard was doing his homework.

## NEGATIVE

SUBJ. + WAS NOT / WERE NOT + V-ING

She wasn't reading a novel at 8 o'clock.

I / he / she /it WAS

You / we / they WERE

# PAST CONTINUOUS - FORM

## INTERROGATIVE

[QUESTION WORD] + WAS / WERE + SUBJ. + V-ING?

What was Anne doing at the party?

Was he doing his homework?

## SHORT ANSWERS

Yes, I was / No, I wasn't

Yes, they were / No, they weren't

# PAST CONTINUOUS - USE

•The Past Continuous tense expresses action at a particular moment in the past. That is, an action was in progress at a particular time in the past.

**I was working at 10pm last night.**

•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.

**Mary was playing the piano WHEN Daisy arrived.**

**WHILE Mary was playing the piano, Daisy arrived.**

**WHEN + PAST SIMPLE (short action)**

**WHILE + PAST CONTINUOUS (long answer)**

# PAST CONTINUOUS VS. PAST SIMPLE

## USES

### PAST SIMPLE

- To talk about actions that started and finished in the past.

### PAST CONTINUOUS

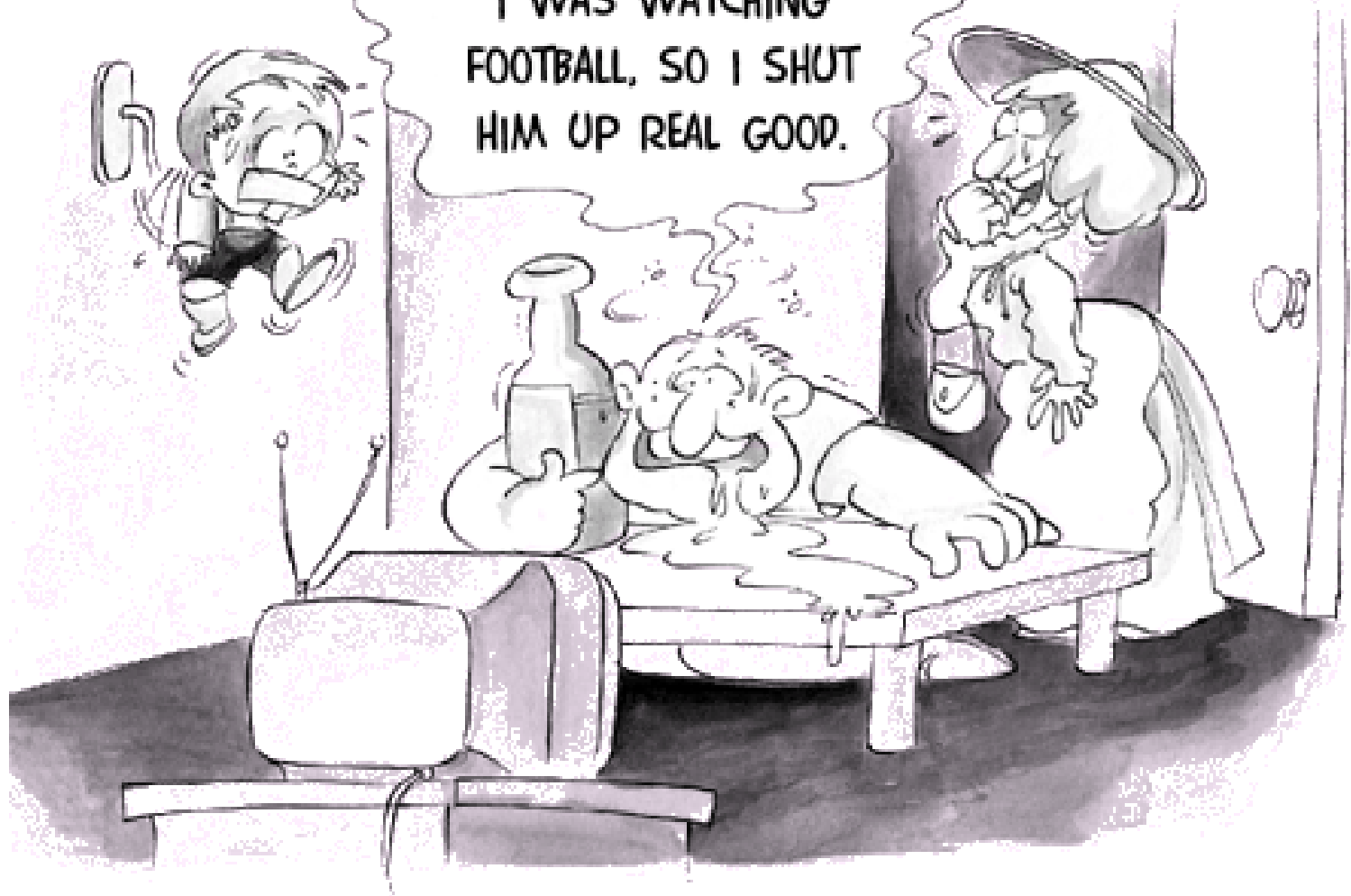
- To describe an action that was happening in a given moment in the past.



NO SIR, I WAS NOT TALKING  
ON MY CELL PHONE....  
I WAS WATCHING A T.V. SHOW  
ON MY IPOD....

© 2005  
FRANK  
SAN ANTONIO  
EXPRESS-NEWS

HE CRIED WHILE  
I WAS WATCHING  
FOOTBALL, SO I SHUT  
HIM UP REAL GOOD.





*Gary Varvel*  
The Suburbanist's Best  
©2008 GaryVarvel.com