

The past continuous (student's copy)

The past continuous is used for a number of reasons however at this time we will look at its use with the past simple. It is used with the past simple to show interrupted actions. Look at the following example

They were talking together when suddenly a cat ran out into the road

- How many tenses are used in this sentence?

- What are they?

- What is their function?

Now look at this timeline and write a sentence

1. have a shower
2. telephone ring



The past continuous (teacher's copy)

Use this to encourage discussion of the use of the past simple in conjunction with the past simple

The past continuous is used for a number of reasons however at this time we will look at its use with the past simple. It is used with the past simple to show interrupted actions. Look at the following example:

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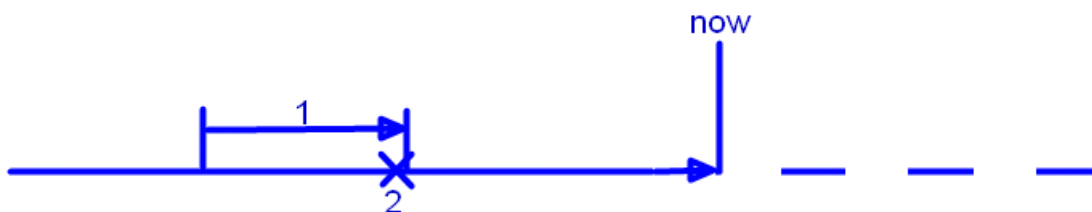
- How many tenses are used in this sentence? **2**
- What are they? **Past continuous and past simple**
- What is their function?

The past continuous indicates an action in progress

The past simple indicates an action which interrupts the past continuous

Now look at this timeline and write a sentence:

1. have a shower
2. telephone ring



While I was having a shower the phone rang.

The phone rang while I was having a shower.

(There may be other possibilities in addition to the sentences above)