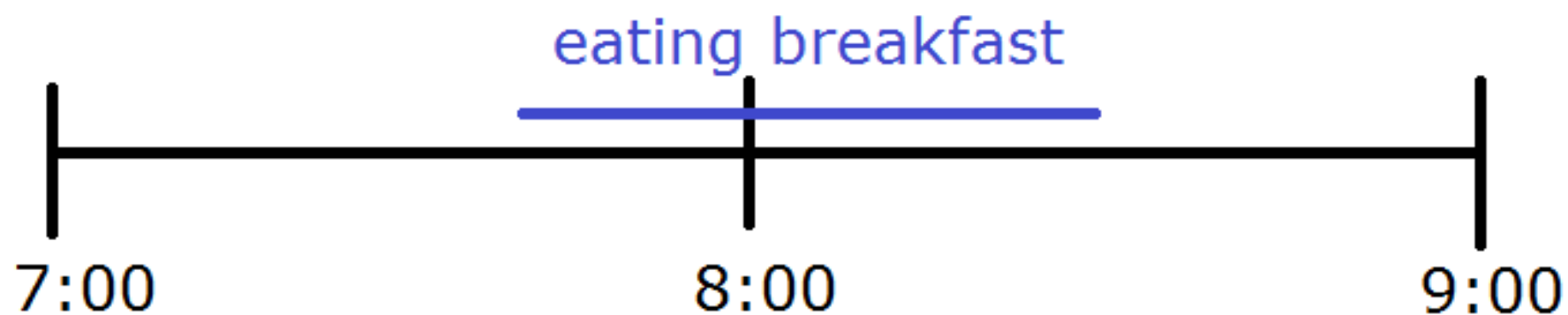


# Past Continuous with Past Simple

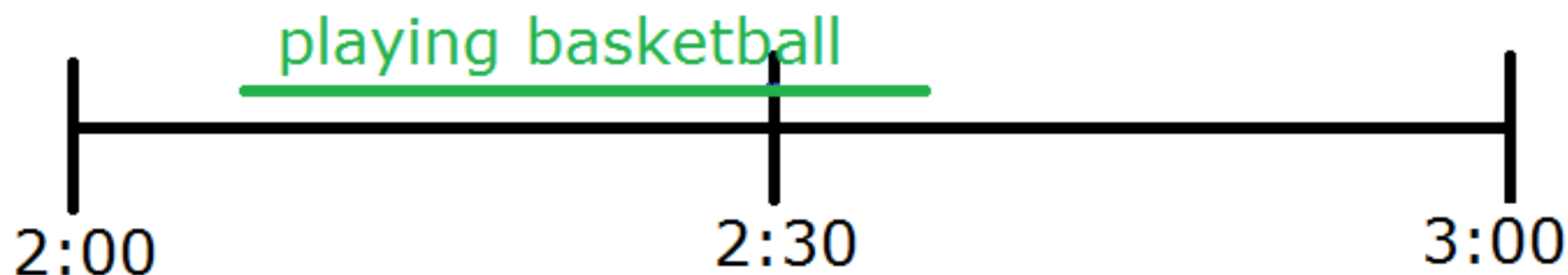
Intermediate English, Week 9, Winter 2020

# Talking about the past

- We already learned about *past simple* verbs to talk about the past
- Today, we will talk about *past continuous* verbs – verbs that talk about the past with *-ing*
- The past continuous is for something in the past that happens for a longer time
  - The musician *was singing* at the concert.
- We also use it for something that happens before and after a certain time or event
  - She *was driving* home at 5:00 pm.



"At 8:00, I was eating breakfast."



"The children were playing basketball at 2:30."

# Past continuous grammar

- Past continuous verbs have two parts – *to be* + *verb-ing*
  - You *were working* all morning.
  - He *was watching* a movie with his friends.
- Because it is in the past, use *was* or *were*, not *am/are/is*
  - Use *was* when the subject is I / he / she / it
  - Use *were* for you / we / they
- We usually **don't** use contractions with these verbs
  - They *were cooking* dinner. **NOT** ~~They're cooking dinner.~~

# Review - spelling with -ing

- For most verbs, just add **-ing** to the end
  - We were learn**ing** English. (learn → learn**ing**)
- For verbs ending with **-e**, delete the **-e**, then add **-ing**
  - I was driv**ing** to the grocery store. (Drive**e** → Driv**ing**)
- If it ends with **-ie**, change to **-y**, then add **-ing**
  - The flowers in the garden were dy**ing**. (Die → Dy**ing**)
- When the last three letters are consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final letter, then add **-ing**
  - You were runn**ing** very fast! (run → runn**ing**)
- If a verb ends with **-y**, you don't need to change! Just add **-ing**
  - The children were play**ing** soccer. (play → play**ing**)

# Let's practice! Fix the mistakes

1. I was <sup>eating</sup> ~~eat~~ breakfast at 8:00 AM.
2. They <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ playing soccer together last night.
3. The cars were <sup>stopping</sup> ~~stoping~~ in the middle of the street.
4. He was talking to his sister on the phone ~~tomorrow~~.

# Past tense verbs

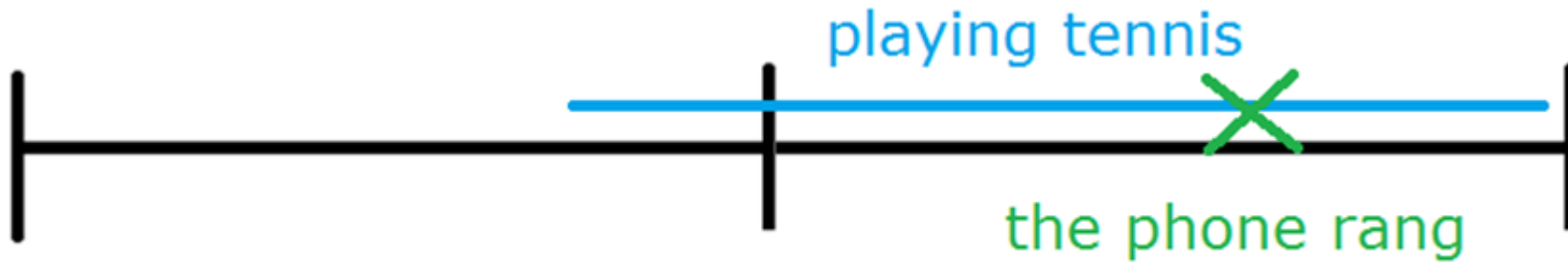
- We know about the **past simple** and the **past continuous**
- The **past simple** is for one thing that happened one time in the past
  - I **watched** a movie yesterday.
  - We **sang** songs together.
- The **past continuous** is something that happened for a longer time in the past
  - I **was watching** a movie at 7:00 yesterday.
  - We **were singing** songs together all night.
- Now, we will learn how to use these two verbs together in a sentence

# Using *when* with past verbs

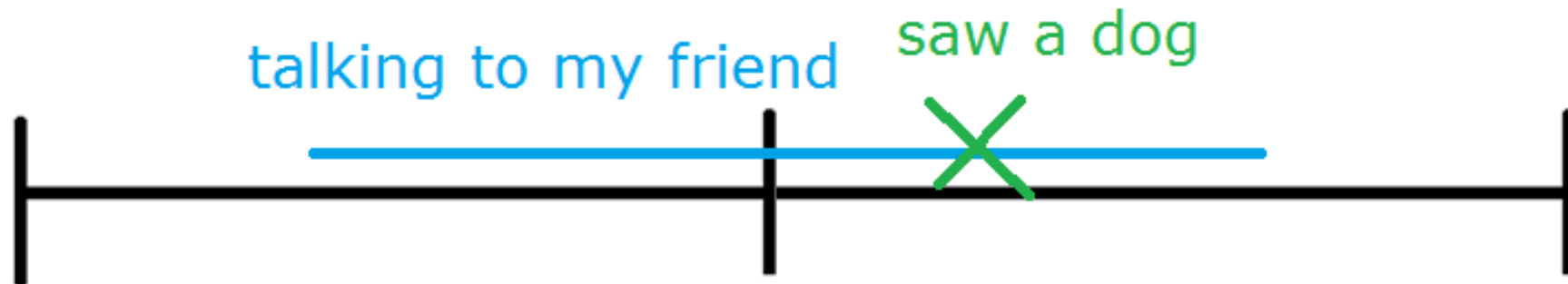
- We can use both verbs in a sentence to talk about two things that happened at the same time
- The **past continuous** verb is something that happened for some time. The **past simple** verb is something that happened during that time
- We use the word *when* in this type of sentence
- *When* can be used with either verb
  - **When** I **was eating** lunch, my sister **came** home. / I **was eating** lunch **when** my sister **came** home.
  - **When** he **came** to the house, I **was sitting** outside. / He **came** to the house **when** I **was sitting** outside.



# Examples



"The phone rang when she was playing tennis."



"I was talking to my friend when I saw a dog."

# Using both verbs

- Don't forget to use *when* in this kind of sentence
  - When I **was walking** home, I **saw** my friend.
- It doesn't matter what verb is first
  - I **saw** my friend when I **was walking** home.
- The continuous verb is for the long action, the simple verb is for the short action
  - Her friend **called** when she **was washing** dishes. **NOT ~~Her friend was calling when she washed dishes.~~**
- Don't forget, each verb needs a subject. (The subjects can be the same or different)
  - **We** **were eating** dinner when **the dog** **started** to bark.

# Let's practice! Fix the mistakes in the sentences.

1. We were cooking lunch when <sup>he</sup> cut himself.
2. She was <sup>exercising</sup> ~~exercise~~ when her father called.
3. I <sup>fell</sup> ~~was falling~~ down when I was playing baseball.
4. When they were watching the movie, he <sup>got</sup> ~~get~~ a text message.