

EXPLAINING PAST CONTINUOUS

- **INTRODUCTION.** Ask students to look at you and mime an action for 15 seconds or so (writing, cleaning etc). Stop the activity and ask students: What was the teacher doing? Write their answers on the board.

Ask students, to think of a time from the day before, for example 7.00 p.m. Call on different students to ask each other what they were doing at that time.

- **MEANING AND USE.** Describe a scene to demonstrate the meaning and use of the Past Continuous. Tell the students that the class as a whole is going to write a story but first they must set the scene..

Together, choose a place (a park on a windy day, a crowded party, a haunted house at night..). Tell the students that to set the scene you are going to describe everything that was happening as the story began. Give them a sentence to start. (It was a dark and stormy night. It was a big) Call on a volunteer to continue with one sentence (The wind was blowing..) . Write their sentences on the blackboard.

- **ORAL PRACTICE.**

❖ Ask

What were you doing last night at 7.30 P:M/ this morning at 6:00 A.M)?

What were you thinking about when the class started/when you woke up this morning/ a minute ago?

❖ Say three past continuous sentences that describe activities that were happening at the same time as the events below

- My phone rang at 7.00 A.M
- I ate lunch at the cafeteria today

Source: Intermediate Grammar OUP