

## Interrupted Past Answer Key

1. Maria **was chopping vegetables** when the phone rang.
2. The **soup was boiling** on the stove.
3. He **was playing a video game** before the lights went out.
4. Maria **was looking for a flashlight** when the lights went out.
5. He **was calling for help** when the power came back on.

### Teacher Notes / Guide

- This passage highlights the **pattern of interrupted actions**:
  - *Past continuous* = background action in progress.
  - *Simple past* = interrupting action.
- Encourage students to underline all the **was/were + verb-ing** verbs first to see the ongoing actions.
- Common errors: students may forget to use past continuous in answers, so emphasize **full-sentence answers** with the correct tense.
- Extension idea: Have students write their own short “interrupted action” mini-stories using past continuous and simple past (e.g., *I was walking to school when it started raining.*).