Preterite: BE + −ING

Main use: action in the past, which was being done, when another short action interrupted it.

Syntax: auxiliary BE (was/were) + Verb + −ING

Examples:
Were they playing football when you saw them yesterday?

Answers:
Yes, they were playing football when I saw them yesterday.
= Yes, they were.

No, they weren't playing football when I saw them yesterday.
= No, they weren't.

TEST

Please choose the correct tense: simple past or BE+−ING?

ANSWERS:
1: was having | 2: rang | 3: thought | 4: was getting | 5: put | 6: broke | 7: was still ringing | 8: ran | 9: hit | 10: hurt | 11: wanted | 12: was still ringing | 13: thought | 14: were sitting | 15: didn't see | 16: fell | 17: got up | 18: was hurting | 19: was still ringing | 20: answered | 21: was | 22: said