

Past Continuous

Name: _____

Grade 5(A+B)

Objective: To review the past continuous tense.

To practise forming and using the past continuous in sentences.

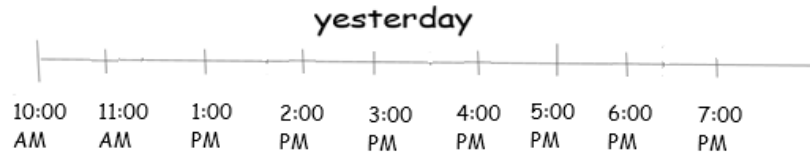
The past continuous (also called past progressive) is a verb tense which is used to show that an ongoing past action was happening at a **specific moment** in the past, an action **interrupted** an ongoing action, or that **two ongoing actions** were happening at the same time.

Past Continuous Forms

Positive	Negative	Question
I was singing.	I was not singing.	Was I singing?
You were singing	You were not singing.	Were you singing?
We were singing.	We were not singing.	Were we singing?
They were singing.	They were not singing.	Were they singing?
He was singing.	He was not singing.	Was he singing?
She was singing.	She was not singing.	Was she singing?
It was singing.	It was not singing.	Was it singing?

Past Continuous Uses:

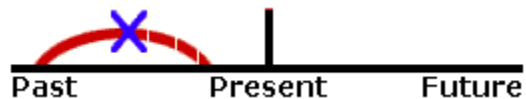
USE 1: An action that was happening at a specific time in the past.



Examples:

- Last night at 6 PM, I was eating dinner.
- At midnight yesterday, we were still driving through the desert.
- Yesterday at 4 PM, I was sitting at my desk at work.

USE 2: Interrupted Action in the Past



Use the past continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the simple past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

Examples:

- I was watching TV **when** she called.
- **While** we were having the picnic, it started to rain.
- What were you doing **when** the earthquake happened?
- I was listening to my iPod, **when** the earthquake happened.
- You were not listening to me **when** I told you to turn the oven off.
- **While** John was sleeping last night, someone stole his car.
- Sammy was waiting for us **when** we got off the plane.
- **While** I was writing the email, the computer suddenly went off.
- A: What were you doing **when** you broke your leg?
B: I was snowboarding.

USE 3: Parallel Actions

(two actions that were happening at the same time in the past)



When you use the past continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

Examples:

- I **was studying** **while** he **was making** dinner.
- **Were you listening** **while** he **was talking**?
- I **wasn't paying** attention **while** I **was writing** the letter, so I made several mistakes.
- What **were you doing** **while** you **were waiting**?

**** Note:**

****Interrupted action:**

When → Past Simple, Past Continuous

- **When** the phone rang, she **was writing** a letter.

Past Continuous **when** Past Simple

- She **was writing** a letter **when** the phone rang.

While → Past Continuous, Past Simple

- **While** Ellen **was reading** a book, Tim entered the room.

Past Simple **while** Past Continuous

- Tim entered the room **while** Ellen **was reading** a book.

****Parallel action:**

While → Past Continuous, Past Continuous

- **While** Sarah **was writing** her homework, Mira **was watching** television.

Past Continuous **while** Past Continuous

- Sarah **was writing** her homework **while** Mira **was watching** television.

Practice

Put the verbs into the correct past form. (Past Continuous /Past Simple)

1. When I **phoned** (phone) my friends, they **were playing** (play) monopoly.
2. Yesterday at six, I **was preparing** (prepare) dinner.
3. The kids **were playing** (play) in the garden when it suddenly **began** (begin) to rain.
4. I **was practicing** (practice) the guitar when he **came** (come) home.
5. While Alan **was working** (work) in his room, his friends **were swimming** (swim) in the pool.
6. I **was trying** (try) to tell them the truth but they **weren't listening** (not / listen).
7. What **were** you **doing** (do) yesterday at 4 pm?
8. I **was listening** (listen) to the radio while my sister **was watching** (watch) TV.
9. When I **arrived** (arrive), they **were playing** (play) cards.
10. We **were studying** (study) English yesterday at 4:00 pm.

Find the mistake in each sentence and rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. Jack **were** reading a story at 9 o'clock last night.
Jack was reading a story at 9 o'clock last night.

2. Suzan and Clara **was** cleaning the house in the morning yesterday.
Suzan and Clara were cleaning the house in the morning yesterday.
3. Dad **was** **fix** the table at 4 o'clock last Friday.
Dad was fixing the table at 4 o'clock last Friday.
4. I **were** studying English at 10 yesterday.
I was studying English at 10 yesterday.
5. While I **watched** TV, the telephone rang.
While I was watching TV, the telephone rang.
6. When Sam **was** **cutting** his finger, he was cooking food.
When Sam cut his finger, he was cooking food.

Coordinator's Signature: _____

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