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 **Past Continuous**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade 5(A+B)

Objective: To review the past continuous tense.

 To practise forming and using the past continuous in sentences.

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The past continuous (also called past progressive) is a [verb tense](https://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbtenseintro.html) which is used to show that an ongoing past action was happening at a **specific moment** in the past, an action **interrupted** anongoing 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 -------------- (**phone)** my friends, they ---------------- **(play)** monopoly.
2. Yesterday at six, I --------------- **(prepare)** dinner.
3. The kids --------------- (**play)**in the garden when it suddenly **-------(begin)** to rain.
4. I ------------------ **(practice)** the guitar when he --------------**(come)** home.
5. While Alan --------------- **(work)** in his room, his friends ----------------- **(swim)** in the pool.
6. I ------------------ **(try)** to tell them the truth but they ----------------- **(not / listen).**
7. What ----------------- you --------------**(do)** yesterday at 4 pm?
8. I ------------------- **(listen)**to the radio while my sister --------------- **(watch)** TV.
9. When I --------------- **(arrive),** they ----------------- **(play)**cards.
10. We --------------- **(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.

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1. Suzan and Clara was cleaning the house in the morning yesterday.

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1. Dad was fix the table at 4 o’clock last Friday.

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1. I were studying English at 10 yesterday.

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1. While I watched TV, the telephone rang.

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1. When Sam was cutting his finger, he was cooking food.

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Coordinator’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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