

Past Continuous

Grade 6(A + B)

Name: _____

Date: / /

Objectives: To review the past continuous tense.

To practise using the past continuous.

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 of interruption, 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 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.
- When the phone rang, she **was writing** a letter.
- While we **were having** the picnic, it started to rain.
- What **were you doing** when the earthquake started?
- I **was listening** to my iPod, so I didn't hear the fire alarm.
- 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 2 An action that was happening at a specific time in the past.



Examples:

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

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.
- While Ellen **was reading**, Tim **was watching** television.
- **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**?
- Thomas **wasn't working**, and I **wasn't working** either.
- They **were eating** dinner, **discussing** their plans, and **having** a good time.

'when' + short action (past simple tense)
 'while' + long action (past continuous tense)

I **was watching** TV when Jim **knocked** the door.

	I was watching TV	when	Jim knocked the door.
When	Jim knocked the door	,	I was watching TV
	Jim knocked the door	while	I was watching TV
While	I was watching TV	,	Jim knocked the door

Practice

Put the verbs into the correct past forms (past continuous or past simple).

1. When I phoned my friends, they (play) were playing monopoly.
2. Yesterday at six I (prepare) were preparing dinner.
3. The kids (play) were playing in the garden when it suddenly began to rain.
4. I (practice) was practicing the guitar when he came home.
5. We (not / cycle) weren't cycling all day.
6. While Alan (work) was working in his room, his friends (swim) were swimming in the pool.
7. I tried to tell them the truth but they (not / listen) weren't listening
8. What (you / do) did you do yesterday?
9. Most of the time we (sit) were sitting in the park.
10. I (listen) was listening to the radio while my sister (watch) was watching TV.
11. When I arrived, they (play) were playing cards.
12. We (study) were studying English yesterday at 4:00 pm.

Past Simple and Past Continuous



Circle the correct verb form in each of the following sentences.

- a) Mary prepared / **was preparing** lunch when they **came** / was coming.
- b) Tom was very unlucky. It **rained** / **was raining** every day during his holidays.
- c) Who was that nice girl you **talked** / **were talking** to when I **walked** / was walking by the pub?
- d) Last weekend Susan **fell** / was falling and **broke** / was breaking her leg.
- e) When I **entered** / was entering the cafeteria Mary **had** / **was having** lunch with Peter.
- f) We **drove** / **were driving** to Berlin in Robert's new car.
- g) The sun **shone** / **was shining** brightly when I **got up** / was getting up this morning.
- h) Ann finally **told** / was telling us the whole story about Peter.

Teacher: Mirna Nawaf Al-Sahawneh.

Coordinator's Signature: -----

