

The Past Continuous/Progressive Tense



I **was watching** TV when she called.

Past continuous tense

We use the **past continuous tense** to show that an action continued for a period of time in the past.

It is formed by:

was / were + ing

PAST CONTINUOUS

Affirmative

I **was** playing.

You **were** playing.

He **was** playing.

She **was** playing.

It **was** playing.

We **were** playing.

You **were** playing.

They **were** playing.

Negative

I **wasn't** playing.

You **weren't** playing.

He **wasn't** playing.

She **wasn't** playing.

It **wasn't** playing.

We **weren't** playing.

You **weren't** playing.

They **weren't** playing.

Interrogative

Was I playing?

Were you playing?

Was he playing?

Was she playing?

Was it playing?

Were we playing?

Were you playing?

Were they playing?

Was not → **wasn't**

Were not → **weren't**

Answer

Yes, I was / No, I wasn't

Yes, you were / No you weren't

PAST PROGRESSIVE

was/were + verb-ing

When do we use the past progressive?

Action Before & After a Specific Time

Yesterday at noon, I was eating lunch.

Interrupted Continuous Past Action

I was watching a movie when she called.

Parallel Actions

I was reading while my brother was playing guitar.

Repeated Action (often with "always")

My last roommate was always leaving dirty dishes in the sink.

To Start a Story / Create an Atmosphere

While I was driving to work yesterday...

The sun was shining, and birds were singing...

Practice



A Fill in the blanks with the past continuous form of the verbs given in brackets.

1. Rubina _____ on the phone. (talk)



2. The birds _____ around the garden. (fly)



3. I _____ for the bus. (wait)



4. It _____ all morning. (rain)

5. He _____ a letter to his pen pal. (write)

6. You _____ me about your childhood. (tell)

7. She _____ to school. (run)

8. They _____ under the tree. (sit)

9. The farmer _____ his land. (plough)

10. We _____ in a row. (stand)



Practice



B Fill in the blanks with the past continuous form of the verbs given in brackets.

1. It _____ when I got up this morning. (rain)
2. We _____ the last exercise when the bell rang. (do)
3. The children _____ when I last saw them. (play)
4. I _____ along the street when I met my friend. (walk)
5. They _____ to God when they got into trouble. (pray)
6. You _____ when I peeped into your room. (sleep)
7. Rani _____ the vegetables when she cut her finger. (chop)
8. He _____ when the lights went out. (read)
9. The mouse _____ across the room when the cat noticed it. (run)
10. She _____ the road when the car knocked her down. (cross)



Fill in the blanks with the *past continuous* form of the verbs given in brackets.

1. Mother in the kitchen when the guests came. (cook)
2. The baby with its dolls when I entered the room. (play)
3. It when I woke up. (rain)
4. Jia the television when her friends came in. (watch)
5. Mona and Veena to the market when I met them. (go)
6. The trains late because of bad weather. (run)
7. The policeman fined the driver since he the car rashly. (drive)
8. Rahul a lot when he returned from the field. (sweat)
9. Monali the stray dogs in her neighbourhood when I saw her. (feed)
10. Jyoti and Suhana behind the curtains while playing hide-and-seeK. (hide)



Let's Learn

The continuous form can be also used in the past tense. The **past continuous** is used

1. for actions which were going on at a particular time in the past.

Examples: I *was singing*.
My mother *was washing* her hair.

2. when action 1 began and was going on before action 2 in the past.

Examples: I *was singing* (action 1) when it *began* to rain (action 2).
They *were making* dinner when the guests *arrived*.
I *was reading* a book when the telephone *rang*.

Let's Practise

1. Complete the sentences using the past continuous form of the verbs given in brackets. One has been done for you.

a. I was eating lunch when Meera came in. (eat)

b. Jaya the pots when one of them broke. (clean)

c. While they for the bus, they saw a peacock. (wait)

d. When she in the garden, she saw a snake. (work)

e. It hard, so we had to take a taxi. (rain)

f. Your parents the shed when I came over. (repair)

g. He a birdhouse when the hammer broke. (make)

Pages:49 & 50 of English language book.Do the exercises.

Note: Solve the exercises and make a pdf file, then send it to me for correction.

Thank
you