

PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST PROGRESSIVE

■ WHEN DO WE USE THE PAST CONTINUOUS?

We use the **Past Continuous** to talk about things that **were happening** in the **past**

*Past tense of the verb BE (was or were) + -ING form of the verb

THE VERB BE IN THE PAST

I	was
you, we, they	were
he, she, it	was

THE “ING” FORM OF THE VERB

GOING/ EATING/ DOING/ SLEEPING

EXAMPLES:

1. We were sleeping when the phone rang.
2. I was taking a shower when you called.
3. The children were playing while I was cleaning the kitchen.
4. While I was studying my husband was cleaning the garage.
5. We were driving home from work when we saw the car accident.
6. What were you doing at midnight on New Year's Eve?
7. Paul and Sandra were walking their dog when the storm hit.
8. The baby wasn't (was not) sleeping when the babysitter arrived.
9. Jenny was studying for her English test all day yesterday.
10. I was making a birthday cake when the smoke alarm went off.

• Remember, there are some non-action verbs that aren't supposed to be used in the continuous tense.

■ SOME PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What **were** you **doing** before watching this video?

• Possible answers:

- I **was eating** breakfast.
- I **was driving** home from work.
- I **was making** coffee.

PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST PROGRESSIVE

REMEMBER, THERE ARE SOME NON-ACTION VERBS THAT AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE USED IN THE CONTINUOUS TENSE.

AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCES:

Subject + BE in the past (was/were) + verb-ING

Ex. Kendal was walking her dog in the park.

Ex. I was working on my thesis.

Ex. The kids were playing on the playground.

NEGATIVE SENTENCES:

Subject + BE in the past (was/were) + not + verb-ING

Ex. Kendal wasn't walking her dog in the park.

Ex. I wasn't working on my thesis.

Ex. The kids weren't playing on the playground.

*was + not = wasn't

*were + not = weren't

INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES (QUESTIONS):

BE in the past (Was/Were) + subject + verb-ING...?

Ex. Was Kendal walking her dog in the park?

Ex. Were you working on your thesis?

Ex. Were the kids playing on the playground?

EXAMPLES

1. I was sleeping when you called.
2. Peggy broke her leg while she was skiing.
3. While I was cooking dinner, the children were playing outside.
4. Yesterday while I was looking at my computer screen, I started to feel a little dizzy.
5. Peter wasn't studying at the library last night. He and his friends were playing video games.

IMPORTANTE

The gerund, not the infinitive, is used after prepositions.

Examples:

- I apologized for being late. (Preposition - for / Gerund - being)
- I'm tired of working so much. (Preposition - of / Gerund - working)
- Sara forgave Sean for lying. (Preposition - for / Gerund - lying)
- Are you afraid of making mistakes? (Preposition - of / Gerund - making)
- The children are good at making messes. (Preposition - at / Gerund - making)
- Before watching this video, I was eating lunch. (Preposition - before / Gerund - watching)

PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST PROGRESSIVE

EXERCÍCIOS

Complete the sentences in the **past continuous** using the verb in parenthesis.

1. I ____ when you called. (study)
2. Ana and Bob ____ last week, but they're back now. (travel)
3. Who ____ you ____ to this morning on the phone? (talk)
4. Maggie ____ after the meeting this morning. I hope everything is okay. (cry)
5. I heard the doorbell while I ____ a shower. Who was it? (take)
6. Gabriel broke his arm while he ____ his bike to school last week. (ride)
7. How strange! Yesterday my computer ____ and today it's back to normal! (not work)
8. I'm sorry I called you so late last night. ____ you ____? (sleep)
9. Look at this stain on my white shirt! I ____ my coffee and Sean bumped right into me. (drink)
10. The students ____ their exams when the fire alarm went off. (take)

ANSWERS

1. was studying
2. were traveling
3. were talking
4. was crying
5. was taking
6. was riding
7. was not working
8. Were sleeping
9. was drinking
10. were taking



RESOURCE VIDEO

PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST PROGRESSIVE