

PAST CONTINUOUS

1 EXPLANATION



Study the grammar explanation in the boxes below.

Study the example

- John and Paul started playing football at 7:00 pm.
- John and Paul finished playing football at 8:00 pm.
- So, at 7:30 pm they were playing football.



Explanation

The past continuous describes actions or events in a time before now, which began in the past and were still going on when another event occurred.

An action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished.

Examples:

- The phone rang while I was eating my dinner.
- John was skiing when he broke his leg.

Past Continuous	Past simple
In the middle of an action I was walking when it started to rain.	Completed Action I walked home from work yesterday.
We often use the past simple and the past continuous together to say that something happened in the middle of something else: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John <u>called</u> while <u>we were drinking</u> cocktails. • It was <u>snowing</u> when <u>I woke up</u>. • I <u>saw</u> Jane yesterday, she <u>was sitting</u> on the grass outside her house. • I <u>hurt</u> my hand while I <u>was playing</u> golf. 	

2 HOW TO FORM THE PAST CONTINUOUS

Study the grammar tables below.

Positive statements using "Past Continuous"		
I	was	watching
You	were	dancing
He	was	Singing
She	was	drinking
It	was	eating
We	were	sleeping
They	were	working

Negative statements using "Past Continuous"			
I	was	not	watching
You	were	not	dancing
He	was	not	Singing
She	was	not	drinking
It	was	not	eating
We	were	not	sleeping
They	were	not	working

Questions with "Past Continuous"		
Was	I	watching
Were	You	dancing
Was	He	Singing
Was	She	drinking
Was	It	eating
Were	We	sleeping
Were	They	working



3 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences below using the past continuous.

1. I saw her yesterday when she was _____ (walk) to school.
2. The party was great. We were _____ (dance) all night.
3. They were _____ (argue) about politics so I went home.
4. John is so funny, he was _____ (tell) me jokes all night.
5. I didn't answer your call last night because I was _____ (sleep).
6. We were shocked because she was _____ (tell) so many lies.
7. Liam and Oliver were _____ (study) in the library at 6:00 am.
8. She was _____ (shout) so loudly yesterday that I had to leave.
9. I was _____ (clean) my room when I heard the news.
10. I think I was _____ (teach) at 5:00 pm yesterday.
11. She fell over because she was _____ (run) too fast.
12. I couldn't answer the phone because I was _____ (drive).
13. The dog was _____ (bark) all night so I didn't sleep well.
14. Tom was _____ (work) all day yesterday so he's tired today.
15. We were _____ (play) golf at 10:00am yesterday,





4 COMPLETE THE DIALOGUES

Complete the dialogues below using the past continuous or past simple.

Dialogue 1

- Ken: I _____ (see) you yesterday at 8:00 am.
- Tom: Ah yes, I was _____ (walk) to work.
- Ken: I _____ (think) you were _____ (run)!
- Tom: Ah, I was _____ (run) because I _____ (have) a meeting to attend.

Dialogue 2

- Jan: What were you _____ (do) at 5 pm last night?
- Dave: I was _____ (drive) home from work. Why?
- Jan: I was _____ (try) to call you but your phone did not _____ (ring).
- Dave: Sorry, I _____ (turn) my phone off! I was _____ (listen) to the radio.

Dialogue 3

- Beth: How _____ (be) the party?
- Sarah: It _____ (be) terrible! Everyone was _____ (argue) about football.
- Beth: Oh no! Was everyone _____ (drink) alcohol too?
- Sarah: Yes! I wasn't _____ (drink) alcohol so I _____ (drive) home.

Dialogue 4

- Ken: How _____ (be) your birthday party?
- Tom: I was _____ (have) a terrible time until David _____ (arrive).
- Ken: What _____ (do) David do?
- Tom: He _____ (bring) presents and was _____ (tell) jokes all night!

5 CREATE YOUR OWN SENTENCES

Use your own ideas to complete the sentences below using the past continuous.

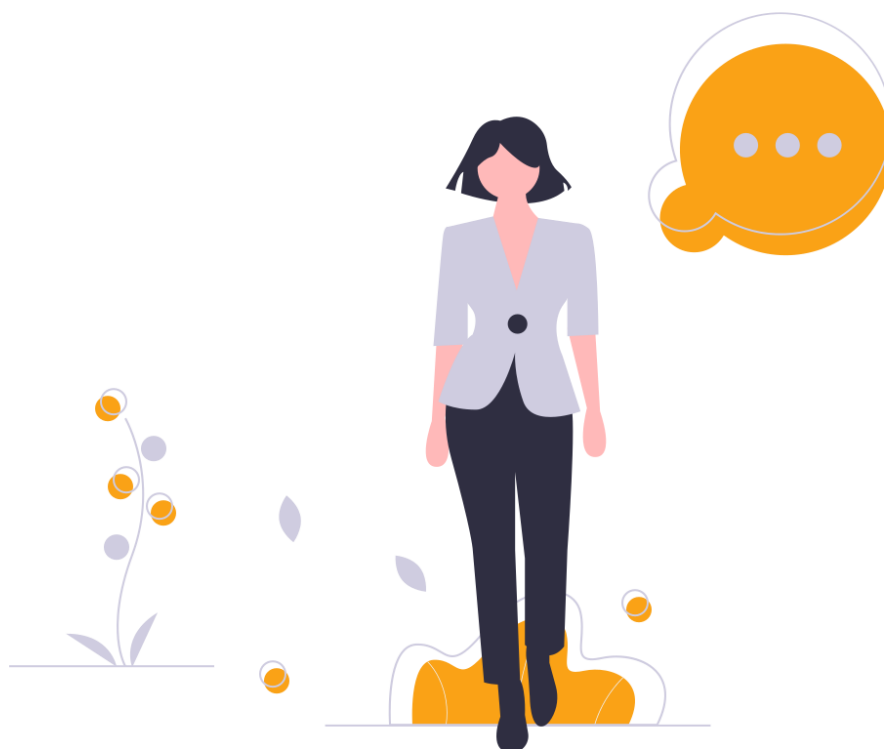
1. The computer screen froze while _____
2. John saw her yesterday when _____
3. She fell asleep while _____
4. The radio was on but _____
5. I went home early from the party because he _____
6. He found \$20 yesterday when _____
7. When I arrived at work he _____
8. The doorbell rang while _____
9. I got to work late because _____
10. I fell over because I _____
11. He stopped talking when _____
12. I didn't hear the man shouting because _____
13. I didn't see you because _____
14. I had to leave the office because he _____
15. The phone rang while _____



6 CHOOSE PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST SIMPLE

Complete the sentences below using the past continuous or the past simple.

1. The phone _____ (ring) while I _____ (drive).
2. I _____ (walk) when I _____ (hear) a strange noise.
3. She _____ (miss) her bus because she _____ (walk) slowly.
4. I _____ (run) when you _____ (call) so I didn't answer.
5. He _____ (cycle) fast but he _____ (managed) to avoid the bus.
6. She _____ (listen) to music when the bus _____ (stop).
7. I _____ (see) Paul at the bus stop he _____ (go) to the city centre.
8. I _____ (go) home early because she _____ (shout) loudly.
9. I _____ (no / hear) the alarm as I _____ (concentrate) on my work.
10. Tom _____ (wait) for me when I _____ (arrive).



7 ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Answer the questions below using the past continuous and/or the past simple.

1. What were you doing 1 hour ago?

2. What were you doing at 8:00 pm yesterday?

3. What were you doing at 6:00 am this morning?

4. Describe what you did last weekend?

5. Describe what you did yesterday morning.

6. What were you doing at 12:01 am on January 1st?

7. Describe what you did for your last birthday.

8. What were you doing on Saturday night at 9:00 pm?

9. Describe what you did last Christmas.

10. What were you doing at 5:00 pm last Monday?

