

We use the past continuous:

- a) for an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not mention when the action started or finished.

*At seven o'clock yesterday evening they **were having** dinner.
(We do not know when they started or finished their dinner.)*



- b) for an action which was in progress when another action interrupted it. We use the past continuous for the action in progress (longer action) and the past simple for the action which interrupted it (shorter action).

*He **was walking** down the street when he **ran into** an old friend.*



- c) for two or more simultaneous past actions.

*She **was talking** on her mobile phone while she **was driving** to work.*



- d) to describe the atmosphere, setting, etc. in the introduction to a story before we describe the main events.

*One beautiful autumn afternoon, Ben **was strolling** down a quiet country lane.
The birds **were singing** and the leaves **were rustling** in the breeze.*



The past continuous is used with the following time expressions: *while, when, as, all morning/evening/day/night, etc.*

FORM

Positive

I She He It	was	working.
You We They	were	

Negative

I She He It	wasn't (was not)	working.
You We They	(were not)	

Question

Was	I she he it	working?
Were	you we they	

Short answers

Yes, No,	I she he it	was. wasn't.
	you we they	were. weren't.



Past Continuous Positive and Negative

Make the past continuous.

1. (Julie / sleep at three o'clock)

2. (you / study at three o'clock)

3. (Luke / read at three o'clock)

4. (I / work at three o'clock)

5. (they / eat chocolate at three o'clock)

6. (John / play tennis at three o'clock)

7. (we / watch TV at three o'clock)

8. (he / use the Internet at three o'clock)

9. (you / cook lunch at three o'clock)

10. (we / travel to London at three o'clock)

11. (Mrs. Brown / not / walk in the garden when the murder happened)

12. (Mr. Black / not / work in his study when the murder happened)

13. (Miss Jones / not / talk to Mr. White when the murder happened)

14. (you / not / play cards when the murder happened)

15. (Dr. Ford / not / read in his room when the murder happened)



16. (Mr. and Mrs. Green / not / eat in the dining room when the murder happened)

17. (Mr. Blue / not / drink coffee in the library when the murder happened)

18. (The maid / not / clean the bedrooms when the murder happened)

19. (I / not / listen to music when the murder happened)

20. (The dogs / not / play outside when the murder happened)



Past Continuous Questions

Make past continuous 'yes / no' questions.

When you arrived at the party...

1. (Alan / dance?)

2. (Susie / drink gin?)

3. (John and Ann / sing?)

4. (Luke / talk to the girls?)

5. (Jodie / put on make up?)

6. (we / cook?)

7. (Jane / play guitar?)

8. (David / read a book?)

9. (Francis / sit in the corner?)

10. (everybody / have fun?)



Make past continuous 'wh' questions.

When I saw you and Lucy last night...

11. (where / you / go?)

12. (what / you / do?)

13. (who / you / meet?)

14. (what / Lucy / wear?)

15. (what / you / eat?)

16. (what / you / drink?)

17. (why / Lucy / smoke?)

18. (who / you / talk to?)

19. (what / you / carry?)

20. (how / Lucy / feel?)



Past Continuous Mixed Exercise 1

Make the past continuous.

1. (he / cook)

2. (she / play cards?)

3. (I / not / cry)

4. (you / not / feel well)

5. (where / I / go when I met you?)

6. (she / not / sleeping at midnight)

7. (I / work?)

8. (you / sleep when I got home?)

9. (it / rain at lunchtime)

10. (what / you / do?)

11. (why / she / run?)

12. (you / not / read)

13. (how / we / do at that time?)

14. (he / not / watch a film at 3pm)

15. (I / do my homework at eight o'clock)



16. (where / it / rain?)

17. (you / shop when I called you)

18. (she / eat dinner when we arrived)

19. (he / live in Tokyo at the time?)

20. (it / rain?)



Past Continuous Mixed Exercise 2

Make the past continuous.

1. (they / take the exam?)

2. (when / he / work there?)

3. (you / make dinner?)

4. (they / drink coffee when you arrived?)

5. (when / we / sleep?)

6. (they / study last night)

7. (we / talk when the accident happened)

8. (he / not / exercise enough)

9. (I / talk too much?)

10. (it / not / snow)

11. (how / they / feel?)

12. (they / not / talk)

13. (where / I / stay?)

14. (why / he / study on a Saturday night?)

15. (I / go to school when you saw me)



16. (you / sleep at 6am)

17. (she / work when I called)

18. (we / not / leave when you called)

19. (I / not / stay in a hotel)

20. (we / make too much noise?)
