



THE PAST CONTINUOUS

The **past continuous** is used to refer to an action that was happening (i.e. an action that was going on) at a particular time in the past.

HOW DO WE FORM THE PAST CONTINUOUS?

The past continuous is formed as follows:

to be in the past simple + verb + -ing

The affirmative form

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

Examples

- Yesterday evening I **was watching** a film when someone knocked on the door.
- This morning I **was revising** my lessons when my father came in.
- Jim and Liza **were playing** tennis yesterday at 11:00.

The interrogative form

Was	I, he, she, it	playing?
were	you, we, they	

Examples

- **Were you tidying** your room on Friday? -> Yes, I was/ No, I wasn't.
- What **were you doing** yesterday evening?
- What **was your mother doing**?
- Where **were you going** this morning at 7:30 a.m.?
- What **were Jim and Liza doing**?

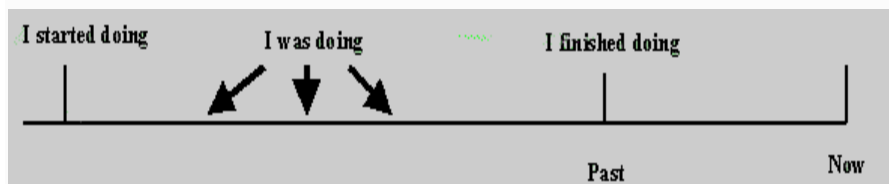
The negative form

I, he, she, it	was not / wasn't	playing
you, we, they	were not / weren't	

Examples

- I **wasn't reading** a book yesterday evening; I was watching a film.
- My mother **wasn't preparing** dinner; she was working on the computer.
- We **weren't playing** cards.

WHEN DO WE USE THE PAST CONTINUOUS?



- We use the past continuous to say that somebody was in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the past. Example: This time yesterday, I **was doing** my homework.
- We use the past continuous to say that something happened in the middle of something else. Example: Bob burnt his hand when he **was cooking** dinner yesterday; While I **was working** in the garden, I hurt my back.

Remember!

- ***Wasn't playing*** and ***weren't playing*** are the short forms of ***was not playing*** and ***were not playing***.

WORKSHEET

1) Put the verbs into the correct affirmative, negative or interrogative form of the past continuous.

1. When I phoned my friends, they (play) monopoly.
2. Yesterday at six I (prepare)..... dinner.
3. The kids (play)..... in the garden when it suddenly began to rain.

4. I (practice) the guitar when he came home.
5. We (not / cycle) all day.
6. While Alan (work) in his room, his friends (swim) in the pool.
7. I tried to tell them the truth but they (not / listen)
8. What (you / do) yesterday?
9. Most of the time we (sit) in the park.
10. I (listen) to the radio while my sister (watch) TV.
11. When I arrived, They (play) cards.
12. We (study) English yesterday at 4:00 pm.

2) Write correct sentences:

Yesterday, at 6 p.m., your family was doing different things. Write affirmative and negative sentences in past continuous.

1. My mother / read / a novel
.....
2. My father / watch / a movie
.....
3. My elder sister / write / in her diary
.....
4. My two brothers / listen / to the radio
.....
5. My little sister and I / not / watch / a movie
.....
6. We / talk / about school
.....