



PAST PROGRESSIVE OR “CONTINUOUS” TENSE

We use the past progressive or past continuous to describe an action that was happening in a certain moment and we don't know if the action is finished or not.

Examples:

My brother was **watching** TV when I left this morning. What was your brother **doing** when you left this morning? He was **watching** TV.

My mother was **cooking** when you called. What was your mother **doing** when I called? My mother was **cooking**.

The structure is as follows:

SUBJECT + TO BE IN PAST + VERB IN ING + COMPLEMENT + EXPRESSION OF PAST TIME

Examples:

They were **studying** for the test last Saturday.
Were they **studying** for the test last Saturday?
Yes, they were **studying** for the test last Saturday. No, they weren't **studying** for the test last Saturday.

It was **raining** when we came back from the party. Was it **raining** when you came back from the party? Yes, it was **raining** when we came back from the party.
No, It wasn't **raining** when we came back from the party.
Typical questions in this tense are:

WHAT were you _____?

WHERE were you _____?

Examples:

Where were you **going** last night?
What were you **doing** yesterday at the library?

Note: We can also use connectors to describe two actions that were happening at the same time. They are: **and, while, when, but not**.

Examples:

She was studying **and** memorizing the book at the same time.
They were dancing **while** the others were sleeping.
We were playing **but not** making noise.
Peter was writing **while** his father was listening to music. John was sleeping **when** the accident happened.



Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb “**To Be**” (was-were) plus the “**ing**” form of the verb given in parenthesis. Pay attention to punctuation. Follow the examples:

My father _____ in his bed.

My father **was sleeping** in his bed.

1. Mark _____ his homework. (do)
2. The girls _____ in the playground. (play)
3. You _____ too fast. (drive)
4. The students _____ in their notebooks. (write)
5. My friend _____ through the park this morning. (jog)
6. They _____ for a little while. (rest)
7. He _____ for the final exam. (exam)
8. My uncle _____ the newspaper in the living room. (read)
9. My sister _____ her favorite program on TV. (watch)
10. My mother _____ dinner when we got home. (make)
11. Sheila _____ food for the party. (food)
12. The kids _____ after the soccer ball. (run)
13. He _____ on the phone for hours. (talk)
14. The teachers _____ the assignment to his students. (explain)
15. The secretary _____ a report for her boss. (type)
16. The mechanic _____ my car. (fix)
17. We _____ for the bus at the bus stop. (wait)
18. Peter _____ lunch with his friends. (have)
19. My parents _____ when I got home. (sleep)

20. My uncle _____ to his favorite music. (listen)
21. The dog _____ a hole in the back yard. (dig)
22. They _____ at us. (laugh)
23. She _____ at us for a long time. (look)
24. My friend _____ a shower when I called him. (take)
25. The reporter _____ me too many questions. (ask)
26. The detective _____ the suspect. (interrogate)
27. Christopher _____ old songs at the party. (sing)
28. The train _____ really fast. (travel)
29. I _____ the dishes when you came. (wash)
30. My boss _____ at his desk this morning. (sit)