

Aspect:

Meaning and Expression

Continuous and Non-Continuous Aspect: Form and Meaning

Member / Plane	NON-CONTINUOUS	CONTINUOUS
MEANING	unmarked	marked (an action in progress)
FORM	unmarked	marked (a discontinuous morpheme be + -ing)
FUNCTION	functions of finites and non-finites	

Continuous and Non-Continuous Aspect: Form and Meaning

Continuous aspect:

intensive

process in progress at the moment
under consideration (present,
past or future) or during a
certain period of time

He was watching TV at 5 o'clock.

He was watching TV all year round.

Non-continuous aspect:

extensive

a momentary action:

She dropped the plate.

a recurrent action:

I get up at 8 o'clock.

an action or state, which lasts a long period
of time:

He went to school from 1958 to 1968.

Lexical and Grammatical Means of Expression

Aspect is expressed grammatically with the help of the opposition of continuous and non-continuous (common) aspect forms.

Continuous form is marked by a discontinuous morpheme be + -ing.

She was playing the piano when someone knocked.

Non-continuous form is unmarked.

She **played** the piano twice a day.

Lexical and Grammatical Means of Expression

A young man **sat**¹ at the desk. = A young man **was sitting**¹ at the desk.
(slight stylistic difference, but no meaning change)

He **brought** her some flowers. != He **was bringing** her some flowers.
(meaning change)

A young man **sat**² on the bench. != A young man **was sitting**² on the bench.
(meaning change)



1. Terminative and Non-Terminative Verbs

Lexical and Grammatical Means of Expression

They sat there all day long.

In the end, he sat there and lighted up a cigarette.

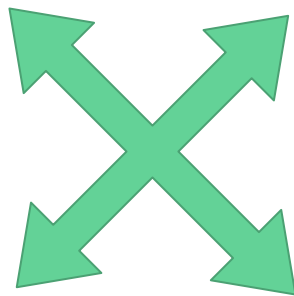


2. Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases (that actualize the aspective meaning of double aspective verbs)

English vs. Russian Aspect

continuous

perfective



non-continuous

imperfective

he wrote = он писал; он написал

он писал = he wrote, he was writing