



# Past Continuous

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# Definition

- **The past continuous tense** is a tense which describes continuous events that happened in the past.

## Examples:

- It was raining yesterday.
- Last night at 6 PM, I was eating dinner.

# FORM

<b>Subject</b>	<b>was/were</b>	<b>base + ing</b>
They	were	watching
<b>Affirmative</b>		
She	was	reading
<b>Negative</b>		
She	wasn't	reading
<b>Interrogative</b>		
Was	she	reading?
<b>Interrogative negative</b>		
Wasn't	she	reading?



I  
He/She  
It

Was+V-ing

I **was camping** when  
I got stung by a bee

- We
- You
- They

Were+V-ing

While **we were  
having** the picnic,  
it started to rain.

## YES/NO QUESTIONS

Past Tense of Be	Subject	Base Form of Verb + Ing	Short Answers Affirmative			Short Answers Negative		
Was	I he she it	workin g?	Yes.	I he she it	was	No.	I he she it	was not (wasn't)
Were	we you they	workin g?		we you they	were		we you they	were not (weren't)

# Use

The past continuous tense is most often used for actions happening at some time in the past.

## Examples:

- Sorry, I **wasn't listening**. Can you say it again please?
- What **were** you **doing** at 8 o'clock yesterday?

# Interrupted Action in the Past

The past continuous is very often used with the past simple to say that something happened in the middle of something else.

## Examples:

- You phoned while I **was having** a bath.
- What **were** you **doing** when the lights went off last night?

# Parallel Actions

When you use the Past Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

## Examples:

- I **was studying** while she **was making** dinner.
- Thomas **wasn't working**, and I **wasn't working** either.



## More uses

- ***to express a change of mind:***

"I **was going** to spend the day at the beach but I've decided to get my homework done instead"

- ***with 'wonder', to make a polite request:***

"I **was wondering** if you could baby-sit for me tonight."

# TIME EXPRESSIONS COMMONLY USED WITH THE PAST CONTINUOUS:

**As** we were playing, it started to rain.

**While** we were playing, it started to snow.

**This time yesterday** we were playing basketball.

**All last night** they were traveling through Anatolia.

We were having dinner **between** seven **and** eight **yesterday evening**.

It was raining **at noon yesterday**.

I was not visiting the museum **at ten yesterday**. I was visiting the castle **then**.

**NOTE:** While/as can be used with Simple Past tense.

As/while he shaved he thought about the coming interview.



**THANK YOU**  
for your  
**ATTENTION!**