



ENGLISH

The past continuous



What is it?

The past continuous: USES

1. Unfinished action from a specific moment in the past.
2. Long action interrupted by a short action (past simple) When/while
3. Two or more simultaneous actions in the past.
4. Repeated monotonous actions in the past (dislike).



The past continuous

EXAMPLES



(1) At 8 o'clock last night,
Nick **was having** a
shower

(2) Nick **was reading** a
book when Mary arrived



The past continuous

EXAMPLES



(3) While Nick **was** having a shower, he **was** talking on the phone

(4) Nick **was** always looking at his mobile phone



The past continuous

How do we **form** the past continuous?



The past continuous

David was studying English



The past continuous

David was studying English



1. *Subject*

The past continuous

David was studying English



1. *Subject*

The past continuous

David was studying English



The past continuous

David was studying English



2. *Verb*

The past continuous

David **was studying** English



2. **Verb**

The past continuous

David **was studying** English



The past continuous

David **was studying** English



3. **Complement**

The past continuous

was studying

How do we
write the
verb?



The past continuous

was studying

There are 2
parts:



The past continuous

1st part

- TO BE (in the past)

Was

Were



I was

We were

You were

You were

He/she/it was

They were

The past continuous

1st part

- TO BE (in the past)



I wasn't

We weren't

You weren't

You weren't

He/she/it wasn't

They weren't

The present continuous

2nd part

Add **-ING**

was studying



The past continuous

adding ING

take	taking
stop	stopping
sit	sitting
swim	swimming
study	studying

I was going to school → He was going to school

The present continuous

STATIVE VERBS ARE
NOT USED IN
CONTINUOUS
TENSES

think

believe

agree/disagree

feel

understand

know

remember

mind

suppose



Common expressions

while

mientras

when

cuando

yesterday

ayer

last...

el pasado...

at that moment

en ese momento

all day/night...

todo el día/noche...

the whole day/night

el día/noche completo...

The past continuous

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	INTERROGATIVE
I was playing	I am not playing	Am I playing?
You were playing	You weren't playing	Were you playing?
He was playing	He wasn't playing	Was he playing?
She was playing	She wasn't playing	Was she playing?
It was playing	It wasn't playing	Was it playing?
We were playing	We weren't playing	Were we playing?
You were playing	You weren't playing	Were you playing?
They were playing	They weren't playing	Were they playing?

The past continuous



Activity 1

**DON'T FORGET THERE ARE 2 PARTS
IN THE PAST CONTINUOUS FORM**



Complete with **PAST CONTINUOUS**

1. Julie ___ (**sleep**).
2. You ___ (**study**).
3. Luke ___ (**read**).
4. I ___ (**not work**) yesterday night.
5. They ___ (**eat**) chocolate during the party.
6. John ___ (**play**) tennis while it ___ (**rain**).
7. We ___ (**watch**) TV when someone called me.
8. He ___ (**not use**) the Internet.
9. You ___ (**cook**) lunch at two o'clock yesterday.
10. We ___ (**not travel**) to London.



are you

READY?

Complete with **PAST CONTINUOUS**

1. Julie **was sleeping**.
2. You **were studying**.
3. Luke **was reading**.
4. I **wasn't working** yesterday night.
5. They **were eating** chocolate during the party.
6. John **was playing** tennis while it **was raining**.
7. We **were watching** TV when someone called me.
8. He **wasn't using** the Internet.
9. You **were cooking** lunch at two o'clock yesterday.
10. We **weren't travelling** to London. (in the USA 'traveling')

