

Grammar

Forming the Past Continuous Tense

To form the verb in the Past Continuous Tense you need the correct form of 'to be' (was or were) and the -ing (Gerund) form of the verb.

I	was	reading a book.
He		watching TV.
She		going to the cinema.
It		playing basketball.
You	were	raining.
We		
They		

Spelling rules

- Mostly the verb gets an -ing in the Present Continuous Tense. E.g.: starting, playing, looking, skiing ...
- If the verb is monosyllabic, it ends with a vowel + consonant, and the vowel is short (pronunciation) then the consonant at the end of the verb doubles. E.g.: run → running
- If the verb ends with -l, it doubles. E.g.: travel → travelling
- If the verb is multisyllabic, and 2nd point holds true of the last syllable then the consonant at the end of the verb doubles. E.g.: permit, admit
- If the verb ends with a mute -e, you have to leave it out. E.g.: make → making
- There are verbs ending with -ie, like 'lie'. In the Gerund form the 'ie' changes into 'y'.
e.g.: lie → lying
Other verbs: die, outlie, tie, untie, ...etc.

Exceptions

There are some verbs that we don't use in the past continuous tense. (Because they are action verbs.)
e.g.: like, love, hate, smell, seem, believe, understand, realise, belong, know, want, need, depend



Past Continuous

affirmative sentence

Task 1 - Form the Gerund form of the following verbs.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1) get → getting | 6) lie → lying |
| 2) open → opening | 7) run → running |
| 3) take → taking | 8) make → making |
| 4) travel → travelling | 9) cut → cutting |
| 5) do → doing | 10) eat → eating |

Task 2 - Fill in the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the Past Continuous Tense.

- They were swimming in the lake yesterday afternoon. (swim)
- He was sleeping on the coach. (sleep)
- I was reading a book. (read)
- We were having breakfast at 7 am yesterday. (have)
- Sarah was painting the fence. (paint)
- The kids were coloring the picture. (colour)
- You were talking about the accident. (talk)
- The dog was barking all last night. (bark)
- We were listening to the radio yesterday morning. (listen)
- Pete was washing his car last weekend. (wash)

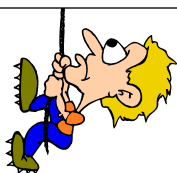
Task 3 - Write the correct forms (Past Continuous) of the verbs on the lines from this list.



- to cook
- to drink
- to hide
- to plant
- to play
- to sing
- to wash
- to watch
- to water
- to write



- When I saw him he was drinking some milk.
- You were playing football when you broke your leg.
- Steve was watching TV when the lights went out.
- We were cooking when the guests arrived.
- Mum was washing up when someone knocked at the door.
- Nelly was singing songs on the concert.
- John and Jim were hiding behind a tree when they were playing hide-and-seek.
- I was watering the flowers when you came in.
- You were writing a test at 10 am yesterday.
- They were planting some seedlings yesterday afternoon.



Task 4 - Rewrite the sentences into Past Continuous and use the given phrases.

e.g.: The boys are fighting in the schoolyard. (at 3 pm yesterday)

▶ The boys were fighting in the schoolyard at 3 pm yesterday.

1) They climbed the mountain. (when he fell off)

They were climbing the mountain when he fell off

2) My dad's waiting for me. (at 4 pm yesterday)

My dad was waiting for me at 4 pm. yesterday

3) You have a shower every day. (when the telephone rang)

You were having a shower when the phone rang

4) I'll go home. (when I had a puncture)

I was going home when I had a puncture

5) The kids played in the sands. (yesterday)

The kids were playing in the sands yesterday

6) You've put on some warm clothes. (when I came in)

You were putting on some warm clothes when I came in

7) Tom rides a bike on Mondays. (when I saw him)

Tom were ridding a bike on Mondays when I saw him

8) They're cleaning the windows now. (when it started to rain)

They were cleaning the windows now, when it started to rain

9) He will take notes. (from 2 to 4 yesterday)

He was taking notes from 2 to 4 yesterday

10) Mum's ironed the laundry. (yesterday afternoon)

Mum was ironing the laundry yesterday afternoon

11) The students studied Maths two days ago. (yesterday)

The students were studying Math two days ago

12) I am staying with my friend this week. (last week)

I was staying with my friend last week



Task 5 - Write sentences using the given words and the verbs in Past Continuous.

e.g.: I * write * a letter * while * you * read.

▶ I was writing a letter while you were reading.

1) Mum * vacuum-clean * while * dad * wash * the car.

Mum was vacuum cleaning while dad was washing the car

2) The kids * draw * pictures * while * the parents * do * the gardening.

The kids were drawing pictures while the parents were doing the gardening

3) Eve and Dora * skip * the rope * while * the others * play * hide-and-seek.

Eve and Dora were skipping the rope while the others were playing hide and seek

4) Marge * lie * in the sun * while * Dave * swim * in the sea.

Marge was lying in the sun while Dave was swimming

5) John * build * a sandcastle * while * his mum * solve * crossword puzzles.

John was building a sandcastle while his mum was solving crossword puzzles.

6) Sally * colour * some pictures * while * her sister * paint * a tree.

Sally was colouring some pictures while her sister was painting a tree.

7) I * eat * some biscuits * while * I * wait * for you.

I was eating some biscuits while I was waiting for you.

8) The dog * sleep * under the bed * while * Sue * bake * a cake.

The dog was sleeping under the bed while Sue was baking a cake.

9) It * get * dark * while * I * talk * on the phone.

It was getting dark while I was talking on the phone.

10) Tim * play * the piano * while * his parents * listen * to it.

Tim was playing the piano while his parents were listening to it

11) Mandy * tidy * the room * while * mum * wash * the clothes.

Mandy was tidying the room while her mum was washing the clothes.

12) We * do * the homework * while * dad * watch * a football match.

We were doing the homework while dad was watching a football match

