

Past Continuous Uses

USE 1 Interrupted Action in the Past



Use the past continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the simple past.

Examples:

- I **was watching** TV when she called.
- Sammy **was waiting** for us when we got off the plane.
- What **were you doing** when you broke your leg?

USE 2 Specific Time as an Interruption



You can also use a specific time as an interruption.

Examples:

- Last night at 6 PM, I **was eating** dinner.
- At midnight, we **were still driving** through the desert.

USE 3 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 he **was making** dinner.
- While Ellen **was reading**, Tim **was watching** television.

Worksheet 1:

1. Add the -ing to the following verbs.

1. camp _____

2. swim _____

3. travel _____

4. walk _____

5. have _____

6. write _____

7. cook _____

8. shop _____

2. Complete with the vocabulary of the unit.

























Worksheet 2:

1. Read the table, then write sentences in affirmative, negative or interrogative
USING PAST CONTINUOUS

What were you doing at 8 o'clock yesterday?

I	play the flute
you	not watch TV
he	not read
she	laugh with her friends
it	not snow
we	have dinner
they	chat
Emma	study
Luke	not work

I was playing the flute. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Worksheet 3:

1. Complete the questions using past continuous.

2. Ashley on the computer? (*to work*)
3. they the bike? (*to repair*)
4. Melissa out a book? (*to take*)
5. you to music? (*to listen*)
6. Nicolas at a picture? (*to look*)
7. Emma and Bertha their friend? (*to phone*)
8. the girl the window? (*to open*)
9. he judo? (*to do*)
10. the friends home from school? (*to come*)
11. Tyler with the cooking? (*to help*)

2. Read the sentences and transform them into affirmative, negative and interrogative:

+ She was reading a book yesterday at 8 p.m.

-

?

+

- They weren't at school yesterday at 9 a.m.

?

Worksheet 4: EXTRA!!! (This is more difficult, don't worry if you don't get it)

1. Complete with the correct form of the past simple or past continuous:

2. A) What (you, do) _____ when you heard that noise?
B) I (try) _____ to change a lightbulb that had burnt out.
3. After I (find) _____ the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) _____ to the police and (turn) _____ it in.
4. John is in the living room working on his computer. At this time yesterday, he (work, also) _____ on his computer. That's all he ever does!
5. When I (walk) _____ into the busy office, the secretaries (talk) _____ on the phone with customers, a clerk (work, busily) _____ at his desk, and two managers (discuss, quietly) _____ methods to improve customer service.

2. Complete the sentences using the present continuous:

1. I when Granny came home. (sleep)
2. Sarah to her twin brother who lives overseas. (talk)
3. It heavily so we did not go outside. (rain)
4. We to the fence when I fell. (race)
5. They in St. Peter since 1996. (live)