

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

## GRAMMAR WORKSHOP 2: THE CONTINUOUS ASPECT PRESENT CONTINUOUS AND PAST CONTINUOUS



### A. The Present Continuous Tense

#### Present Continuous Timeline



THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS IS USED:

- For actions happening now (right now):

*You are using the Internet. You are studying English grammar.*

- to describe an action that is going on during this period of time or a trend:

*Are you still working for the same company? More and more people are becoming vegetarian.*

- For future arrangements:

*We're going on holiday tomorrow. I'm meeting my boyfriend tonight. Are they visiting you next winter?*

- to describe a temporary event or situation:

*He usually plays the drums, but he's playing bass guitar tonight. The weather forecast was good, but it's raining at the moment.*

- to express annoyance at repeated actions ("always, forever, constantly"):

*Harry and Sally are always arguing! You're constantly complaining about your mother-in-law!*

- **Signal words:** *right now, at the moment, now, these days*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Words that do not take the continuous form:** *to feel, to have, to hear, to taste, to smell, to see*

➤ *If these verbs are used in the continuous aspect, they have a **different meaning:***

This coat **feels** nice. = You notice the quality of the coat (perception)

I`m **feeling** better now. = I`m improving.

I **have** a cat. = possession

I`m **having** dinner. = I`m eating.

I can **see** you texting under the desk. = perception

I`m **seeing** my girlfriend later. = I`m planning to meet her.

**FORM: to be** (am, is, are) + **VERB + ing** (She is talking on the phone now.)

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

INTERROGATIVE

I am talking

I am not talking

Am I talking ...?

You are talking

You are not talking

Are you talking...?

She/He is talking

She/He is not talking

Is she/he talking...?

It is playing

It is not playing

Is it playing...?

We are talking

We are not talking

Are we talking...?

You are talking

You are not talking

Are you talking...?

They are talking

They are not talking

Are they talking...?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

## B. The Past Continuous Tense

### Past Continuous Timeline



THE PAST CONTINUOUS IS USED:

- to express an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past:  
e.g. *What were you doing at 8 pm yesterday? I was reading a book yesterday evening.*
  - to describe the background in a story written in the past tense:  
e.g. *The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing** as the elephant came out of the jungle. The other animals **were relaxing** in the shade of the trees, but the elephant moved very quickly...*
  - to describe an unfinished action that was interrupted by another event or action:  
e.g. *I was having a dinner when my friend called.*
  - to indicate that two actions were going on at the same time:  
e.g. *I was doing my homework while my brother was playing video games.*
  - to express a change of mind:  
e.g. *I **was going** to spend the day at the beach but I've decided to get my homework done instead.*
- **Signal words:** *while, when*

**FORM:** to **be (was, were) + VERB + -ing** (She was talking on the phone.)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

INTERROGATIVE

I was talking

I was not talking

Was I talking ...?

You were talking

You were not talking

Were you talking...?

She/He was talking

She/He was not talking

Was she/he talking...?

It was playing

It was not playing

Was it playing...?

We were talking

We were not talking

Were we talking...?

You were talking

You were not talking

Were you talking...?

They were talking

They were not talking

Were they talking...?

C. PRACTICE

/36

**1. Put the verb in brackets in the correct form to make different forms of the Present Continuous Tense. /7**

a. John \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book now.

b. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you do) tonight?

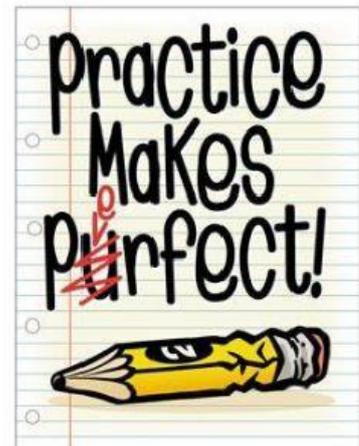
c. Jack and Peter \_\_\_\_\_ (work) late today.

4. Silvia \_\_\_\_\_ (not listen) to music.

5. Maria \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) next to Paul.

6. How many other students \_\_\_\_\_ (you study) with?

7. The phone \_\_\_\_\_ (not ring).



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Put the words in the correct order to make different sentences in the Present Continuous Tense - positive; negative; yes/no and information questions.** **/8**

1 glasses. looking for my I'm

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What are kind reading? you book of

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Why Pamela is crying?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 is laughing? Why everyone

\_\_\_\_\_

5 you waiting me? Are for

\_\_\_\_\_

6 are leaving? you When

\_\_\_\_\_

7 the working at John moment. New York in is

\_\_\_\_\_

8 come? want to I'm do you having - next party Saturday a

**3. Yesterday at 6 pm, the Eric`s family were doing different things. Write positive sentences in past progressive.** **/6**

a. His mother / read / a novel

\_\_\_\_\_

b. His father / watch / a movie

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

c. His elder sister / writing / in her diary

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d. His two brothers / listen / to the radio

---

e. His little sister and I / not / watch / a movie

---

f. His / talk / about school

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**4. Put the verbs into the correct form of past simple or continuous. /15**

1. When I phoned my friends, they (play) \_\_\_\_\_ monopoly.

2. Yesterday at six I (prepare) \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.

3. The kids (play) \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden when it suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to rain.

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (practice) the guitar when he came home.

5. We (not / cycle) \_\_\_\_\_ all day.

6. While Alan (work) \_\_\_\_\_ in his room, his friends (swim) \_\_\_\_\_ in the pool.

7. I tried to tell them the truth but they (not / listen) \_\_\_\_\_.

8. What (you / do) \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday?

9. Most of the time we (sit) \_\_\_\_\_ in the park.

10. I (listen) \_\_\_\_\_ to the radio while my sister (watch) \_\_\_\_\_ TV.

11. When I arrived, they (play) \_\_\_\_\_ cards.

12. We (study) \_\_\_\_\_ English yesterday at 4:00 pm.