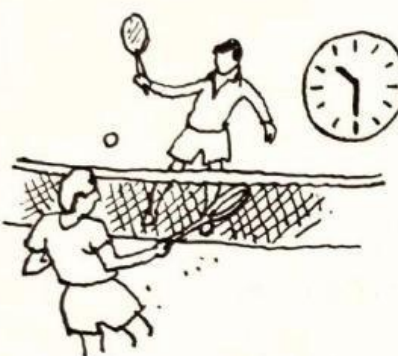


THE PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE (Murphy, p 24-25)



Yesterday Tom and Jim played tennis. They began at 10 o'clock and finished at 11 o'clock.

What were they doing at 10.30?
They **were playing** tennis (at 10.30).

'They **were playing**' means that they were in the middle of playing tennis. They had started playing but they hadn't finished.

This is the *past continuous* tense:

I/he/she was } playing
we/they/you were }

UNIT 12 Exercises

12.1 Here is a list of some things that Ann did yesterday (and the times at which she did them):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 8.45-9.15 had breakfast | 4 12.45-1.30 had lunch |
| 2 9.15-10.00 read the newspaper | 5 2.30-3.30 washed some clothes |
| 3 10.00-12.00 cleaned her flat | 6 4.00-6.00 watched television |

Now write sentences saying what she was doing at these times:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 At 9 o'clock <u>she was having breakfast.</u> | 4 At 1 o'clock |
| 2 At 9.30 she | 5 At 3 o'clock |
| 3 At 11 o'clock | 6 At 5 o'clock |

12.2 A group of people were staying in a hotel. One evening the fire alarm rang. Use the words in brackets to make sentences saying what each person was doing at the time.

Example: (Don / have / a bath) Don was having a bath.

- (Ann / write / a letter in her room) Ann
- (George / get / ready to go out) George
- (Carol and Dennis / have / dinner) Carol and Dennis
- (Tom / make / a phone call) Tom

Remember for single Subject: Was +Verb-ing

Eg John was fishing yesterday .

John was fishing yesterday when it rained.

John and Alan **were fishing** by the lake when it rained. (When there are two or more subjects doing the action, use **were+ Verb-ing**)

12. 1

1 At 9.30 She(read)...the newspaper .

2 At 11 o' clock Annher flat. (clean)

3 At 1 oclock, Ann.....lunch. (have)

4. At 3 o' clock, Ann.....some clothes. (wash)

12.2 Complete the sentences using the past continuous.

When the fire alarm rang, ...

1 Ann.....a letter in her room. (write)

2. Georgeready to go out. (get)

3 Carol **and** Dennis.....dinner. (have)

3. Toma phone call. (make)