

Past Continuous

Use the past continuous to talk about things that were happening at a certain time in the past.

Form the past continuous by putting the past form of *be* before the main verb and adding *-ing* to the end of the main verb.



Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short Answers
I / He / She / It / was looking.	I / He / She / It / wasn't looking.	Was I / he / she / it / looking?	Yes, I / he / she / it / was. No, I / He / She / It / wasn't.
You / We / They / were looking.	You / We / They / weren't looking.	Were you / we / they / looking?	Yes, you / we / they were. No, you / we / they weren't.

Remember!

ride	e + -ing	riding
agree	+ -ing	agreeing
tie	te + y + -ing	tying
shop	Double the consonant + -ing	shopping

Complete the sentences. Use the correct forms of the past continuous.

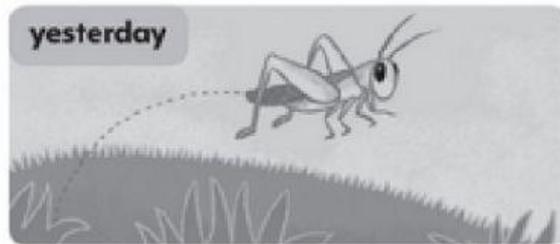
1. The sun _____ (shine).
2. The katydid _____ (eat) the leaves.
3. The birds _____ (sit) in the tree.
4. The crickets _____ (sing) in the grass.
5. A cat _____ (climb) the tree.
6. A boy _____ (try) to catch a butterfly.
7. The butterfly _____ (fly) away.
8. A girl _____ (write) in her notebook.



Look and write.



1 She was sitting in the grass in the thicket. (sit)



2 The grasshopper _____ in the grass. (not sleep)



3 The boy _____ a poem. (not write)



4 She _____ her poem to the class. (read)



5 The boys _____ basketball. (play)



6 The birds _____ in the tree. (sing)

Complete the conversation with *was*, *wasn't*, *were*, or *weren't*.

Lisa What happened in the story? ¹ _____
Robbie looking for two beetles?

Ben No, he ² _____. He ³ _____
looking for two grasshoppers.

Lisa ⁴ _____ Robbie's dad working in the
kitchen?

Ben No, he ⁵ _____. He ⁶ _____
watering the plants in the garden.

Lisa ⁷ _____ Robbie's little sister playing in the garden?

Ben Yes, she ⁸ _____. And the grasshoppers ⁹ _____
sitting on a leaf!



Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I _____ (make) my dinner at 8 o'clock last night.
- 2 Joe and Sam _____ (use) the wrong program in IT yesterday.
- 3 Who was that guy you _____ (dance) with at the party?
- 4 Paula _____ (come) home from school when she saw an accident.
- 5 In 1999 my father _____ (live) in Dublin. That's where he met my mother.
- 6 He _____ (open) the box when he cut his finger.
- 7 This time last week, we _____ (visit) my grandmother.
- 8 I _____ (sit) at the back of the classroom so I couldn't see the screen.
- 9 Andrew _____ (insert) a photo into his document when the teacher stopped the class.
- 10 I _____ (start) to do my homework when my friend sent me a message.

Read the text. Fill in was/were or wasn't/weren't or verb+ing

- Robbie _____ looking for his cat.
Dad _____ watering the plants in the garden.
His sister _____ sleeping in the garden.
She _____ looking for a cookie.
The grasshoppers weren't _____ on a tree. They _____ sitting on a leaf.
Robbie _____ sad.

1
Robbie was looking for his pet grasshoppers, Hoppy and Happy, but their jar was empty.

2
Dad was watering the plants in the garden. "Were you working in the garden all morning, Dad?" Robbie asked. "Yes, I was," said Dad.

3
Emma was playing in the garden. "Did you open this jar, Emma?" Robbie asked. "Yes," said Emma. "I'm sorry! I wasn't looking for grasshoppers. I was looking for a cookie!" Then Robbie saw Hoppy and Happy! The grasshoppers were sitting on a leaf. Robbie was very happy!