CHAPTER 4: PAST CONTINUOUS SIMPLE

LESSON 17: PAST CONTINOUS TENSE

PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

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Form

Affirmative	S + was/were + V-ing She was cooking all the morning.
Negative	S + was/were + not + V-ing She was not sleeping when he came home.
Interrogative	Was/were + S + V-ing Was she sleeping when he came home?

Usage	Example	Time Expressions
Interrupted action in the past.	They were waiting for the train when I spoke to them.	When
Parallel actions	I was studying when my mother was watching TV.	While
Story background	While I was driving to work yesterday...	Constantly
Past habit	I was always cooking when I got home from school.	At that time
Specific time as an interruption.	Last night at 6 p.m, I was eating dinner.	In those days
Emphasis of length of action	I was working in the garden all day.	All morning
Arrangement in the past.	I was upset because I was leaving there that morning.	For hours
A series of parallel actions	When I came to school, the school bell was ringing, many students were running towards the garden, teachers were going out from classrooms.	Always ...

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1: **Use WERE OR WAS:**

1. I _____ reading.
2. She_____sleeping.
3. Her baby _____crying.
4. The boys _____swimming.
5. They _____ jumping on the bed.
6. A lot of students _____studying.
7. What _____you doing?
8. Their babies _____ happy.
9. A man _____walking his dog.
10. He _____ working hard.
11. The children _____ growing up quickly.
12. Her English _____improving.
13. My hair _____ going grey.
14. The town _____ changing quickly.
15. My parents _____ watching TV at eight o'clock last night.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 2: **Choose the correct answer with verbs fomed past continous tense:**

1. The police stopped Willis as ___ to the airport.		
A. was driving	B. he was driving	C. He is driving
2. When I got to work, I realised that I ___ my watch.		
A. were not wearing	B. was not wearing	C. wasn't wearing
3. Where ___Rob and Rebecca ___ when they had their first child?		
A. were - living	B. was living	C. be living
4. Anyway, what ___ about? I can't remember.		
A. Were I talking	B. was I talking	C. I were talking
5. By the time we got to the party, ___ home.		
A. everyone was going	B. was everyone going	C. was going everyone
6. One of our teachers told us that we ___ hard enough.		
A. not were working	B. weren't working	C. were not working
7. Jules ___ in and out of love when he was a young man.		
A. was always falling	B. was falling always	C. always was falling
8. The children_____ their homework.		
A. were doing	B. was doing	C. are doing
9. I _____for a bus		
A. were waiting	B. was waiting	C. am waiting
10. It was *eight o'clock*. I _____ a letter.		
A. were waiting	B. was waiting	C. am waiting
11. He_____ at McDonald's		
A. was working	B. were working	C. is working

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12. **Excuse me, *I*_____ *if* this was the train for York.**		
A. *was wondering*	B. were wondering	C. am wondering
13. ***The sun_____ as we drove through the countryside.***		
A. was setting	B. were setting	C. is setting
14. ***He_____ hard all night long before the big exam.***		
A. was studying	B. were studying	C. is studying
15. ***They_____ dinner while their children played in the backyard.***		
A. was cooking	B. were cooking	C. are cooking

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3: **Provide the correct word form:**

1	The kids _____ cartoon shows.	*watch*
2	Nimra _____ for her friend when I waved her.	*wait*
3	An old man _____ on the bench in the park.	*sit*
4	The magician _____ tricks to children.	*show*
5	They _____ across the river.	*swim*
6	The audience _____ to the speaker.	*listen*
7	Who _____ at the door?	*stand*
8	The kid was not _____ a storybook.	*read*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9	The postman_____ the letters.	*deliver*
10	I _____ the clothes.	*iron*
11	Shariq _____ a novel while I was watching TV.	*read*
12	I _____ coffee when she arrived.	*drink*
13	John _____ meal in that restaurant.	*eat*
14	I _____ my friend to complete the assignment.	*help*
15	The farmer _____ in the field yesterday.	*work*

LIVEWORKSHEETS