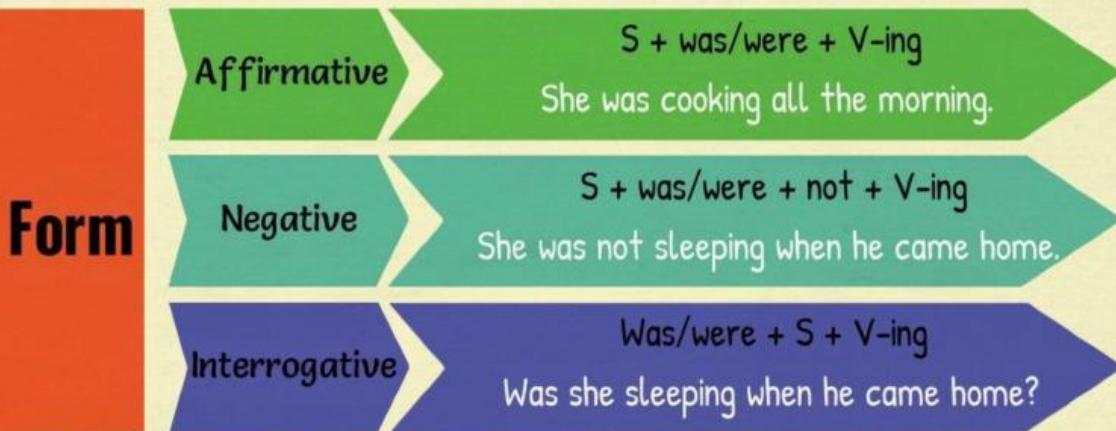


CHAPTER 4: PAST CONTINUOUS SIMPLE

LESSON 17: PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

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| 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 ... |

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.

Exercise 2: Choose the correct answer with verbs formed past continuous 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 |

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| 12. <i>Excuse me, I _____ if this was the train for York.</i> | | |
| A. was wondering | B. were wondering | C. am wondering |
| 13. <i>The sun _____ as we drove through the countryside.</i> | | |
| A. was setting | B. were setting | C. is setting |
| 14. <i>He _____ hard all night long before the big exam.</i> | | |
| A. was studying | B. were studying | C. is studying |
| 15. <i>They _____ dinner while their children played in the backyard.</i> | | |
| A. was cooking | B. were cooking | C. are cooking |

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 |

| | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 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 |