

CHAPTER 4: PAST CONTINUOUS SIMPLE

LESSON 17: PAST CONTINUOUS 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	Ex ample	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. 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.

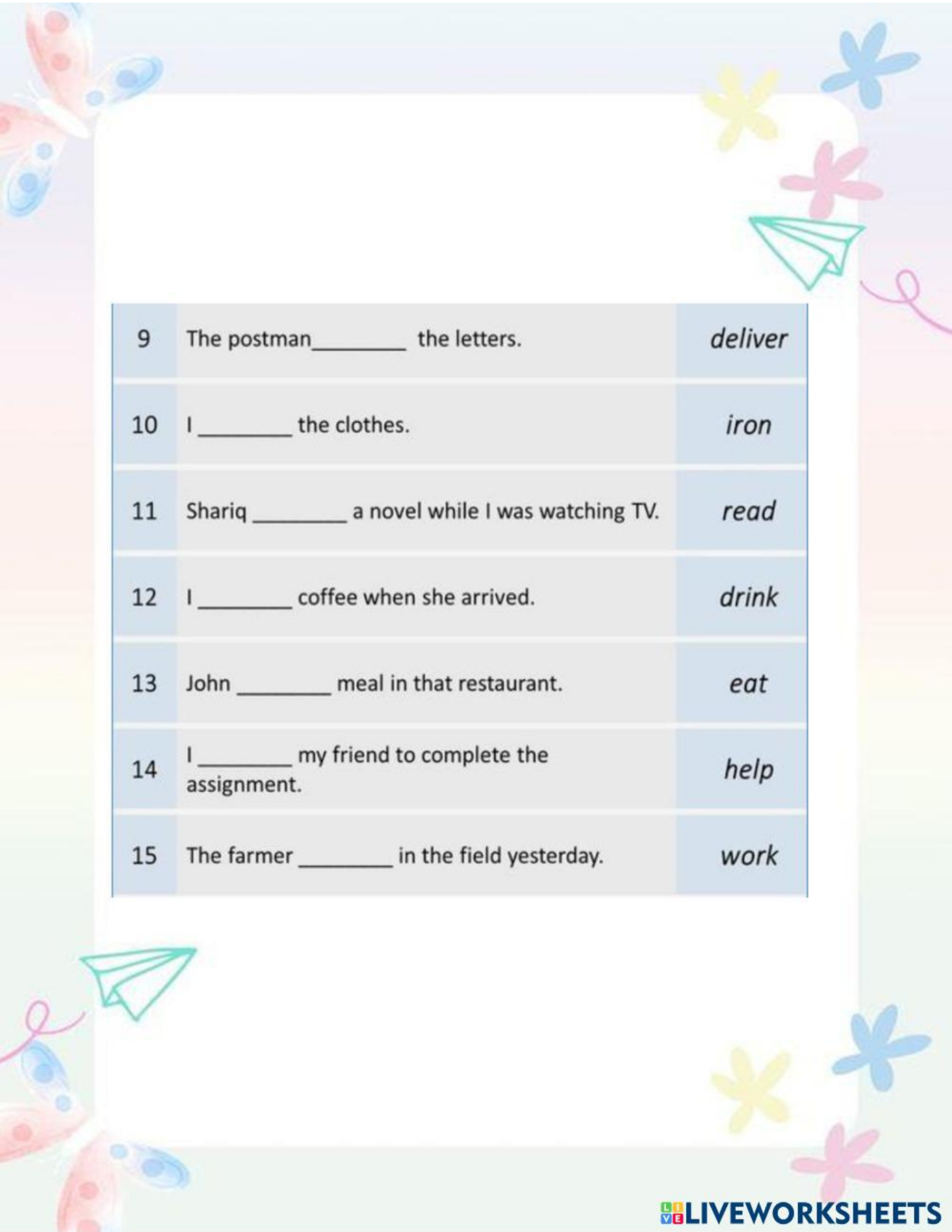
A. was cooking

B. were cooking

C. are cooking

Exercise 3: Provide the correct word form:

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



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