

LANGUAGE REFERENCE

UNIT 3

Past continuous: affirmative and negative

Affirmative	Negative
I / He / She / It was travelling.	I / He / She / It was not (wasn't) travelling.
You / We / They were travelling.	You / We / They were not (weren't) travelling.

- We use the past continuous to talk about actions in progress at a specific time in the past, or actions interrupted by another action.
We were doing homework at 5 pm yesterday.
Chloe was reading when James texted her.
- We form affirmative sentences with **subject + was/ were + verb + -ing**.
He was walking to school.
- To form the negative, we put **n't (not)** after **was/were** and before the **verb + -ing**. **Not** is usually contracted.
They weren't listening to the teacher.

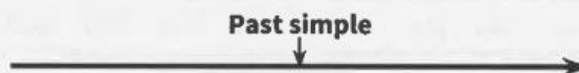
Past continuous: questions

Question	Short answer
Was I / he / she / it travelling?	Yes, I / he / she / it was. No, I / he / she / it wasn't.
Were you / we / they travelling?	Yes, you / we / they were. No, you / we / they weren't.

- We form questions with **Was/Were + subject + verb + -ing**.
Were you reading in bed last night?
- We don't use **verb + -ing** in short answers.
A Was he chatting online?
B Yes, he was. (NOT Yes, he was chatting.)
- For information questions, we put the **Wh-** question word before **be**.
What were you doing this morning?

Past simple and past continuous

- We often use the past simple and past continuous together. We use the past simple for shorter actions which interrupt longer actions in the past continuous.



Past continuous

- I was cycling to school when I saw Lily.*
He was walking through the park when he fell and hurt his knee.
- We often use **when, while** and **as** with the past continuous.
Their computer broke when they were studying.
While she was having breakfast, she got a text from Madeline.
As we were leaving the party, Lucas arrived.
 - We use **when** with the past simple for shorter actions.
When I saw Tom, he was arguing with Adele in the street.
(NOT *While I saw Tom...*)

LANGUAGE PRACTICE

UNIT 3

past continuous: affirmative and negative

- 1 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

chat get have hide ~~play~~ watch

At 5 pm yesterday afternoon ...

- 1 Peter was playing the piano.
- 2 Jack was taking a shower.
- 3 Rosie and Dan were talking to friends.
- 4 We were watching a drama series on TV.
- 5 My sister was getting dressed.
- 6 The children were hiding under the bed!

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

- 1 Peter wasn't playing football. (play)
- 2 Jack wasn't writing emails. (write)
- 3 Rosie and Dan weren't sitting in the garden. (sit)
- 4 We weren't riding our bikes. (ride)
- 5 I wasn't eating a sandwich. (eat)
- 6 The children weren't making any noise. (make)

Past continuous: questions

- 3 Write questions with the past continuous.

- 1 What / you / do / yesterday / ?
What were you doing yesterday?
- 2 Where / they / go / last night / ?

- 3 Who / she / talk to / ?

- 4 Why / he / laugh / at me / ?

- 5 Where / you and your mum / stay / ?

- 6 What / your / friends / say / ?

- 4 Circle the correct options.

- 1 A Was he reading the story?
B Yes, he (was) / were.
- 2 A Were they playing football at 4 pm?
B No, they was / weren't.
- 3 A Were you talking on the phone to your friend at 10 pm last night?
B No, I wasn't / weren't.
- 4 A Was your mum making breakfast at 7 am?
B Yes, she was / were.
- 5 A Were you watching TV at 9 pm yesterday?
B Yes, we was / were.
- 6 A Was Susan doing her homework at 6 pm?
B Yes, she was / were.

Past simple and past continuous

- 5 Complete each sentence with the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 While we were walking (walk) home we saw (see) eight or nine cats crossing the road!
- 2 He was going (go) to bed when the phone rang (ring).
- 3 I was falling (fall) over while I walked (walk) to school.
- 4 When I arrived (arrive) home, my dad was dancing (dance) in the kitchen!
- 5 In the story, the man stole (steal) the money when the police arrived (arrive).
- 6 While I was chatting (chat) online, my mum came (come) into my room to turn the light off.

- 6 Complete the story with the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- I ¹ was getting (get) into bed last night when I ² saw (see) a light in the garden. While I ³ was going (go) downstairs, I ⁴ heard (hear) someone at the door! I ⁵ tried (try) to close the door when my dad ⁶ shouted (shout), 'Let me in! It's me, your dad!'