

# UNIT 4

## PAST CONTINUOUS

- The past continuous is similar to the present continuous, but uses the past of the verb *be*.
- We use *was* or *were* + the *-ing* form of the verb.

|                |      |          |
|----------------|------|----------|
| I, He, She, It | was  | running. |
| You, We, They  | were | talking. |

- We use *wasn't* (*was not*) and *weren't* (*were not*) to make negatives.

|                |         |          |
|----------------|---------|----------|
| I, He, She, It | wasn't  | running. |
| You, We, They  | weren't | talking. |

- We make questions with *was* or *were*.

|      |     |          |
|------|-----|----------|
| Was  | he  | running? |
| Were | you | talking? |

- We use the past continuous to talk about actions and events in progress at a particular time in the past.

*I was chatting to my friends online.*

*We were texting my mum.*

*It wasn't raining at that time.*

*They weren't listening to me.*

*Was it snowing?*

*Were the boys watching us?*

**1 Complete the sentences. Use the past continuous form of the verbs.**

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ (dream) about my holiday last night.
- 2 How many hours \_\_\_\_\_ (you / play) tennis?
- 3 You \_\_\_\_\_ (not watch) television in the kitchen.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (you / talk) to your brother at lunchtime?
- 5 Belinda \_\_\_\_\_ (not do) her homework in front of the television.
- 6 The cat \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) on the car.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (we / use) the wrong kind of paint on that wall?
- 8 The students \_\_\_\_\_ (chat) quietly in the computer room.
- 9 Charlie \_\_\_\_\_ (not look) at the cars, he \_\_\_\_\_  
(shout) at his friends on the beach.
- 10 I \_\_\_\_\_ (not ask) your opinion, I \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) my  
plan.

**2 Complete the text. Use the past continuous form of the verbs in the box.**

argue   lie   listen   not listen   look   make   not sell   tell   wait

It was a peaceful summer afternoon in the park. The students <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on the grass. Derek and Armando <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about football, as usual. Henri <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a story about his holiday in Florida. Penelope and Doris <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to him and Doris <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a necklace of wooden beads. Margherita <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone. She <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the ice cream van which was near the gate. Twenty people <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to buy an ice cream. There was a burger van as well, but the owner <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ many burgers.

**3** Look at Exercise 2 and write questions for the answers, using the past continuous.

It was a peaceful summer afternoon in the park. The students were lying on the grass. Derek and Armando were arguing about football, as usual. Henri was telling a story about his holiday in Florida. Penelope and Doris were listening to him and Doris was making a necklace of wooden beads. Margherita was not listening to anyone. She was looking at the ice cream van which was near the gate. Twenty people were waiting to buy an ice cream. There was a burger van as well, but the owner was not selling many burgers.

- 0 Where were the students lying?  
On the grass.
- 1 What \_\_\_\_\_?  
Football, as usual.
- 2 What \_\_\_\_\_?  
His holiday in Florida.
- 3 What \_\_\_\_\_?  
Listening to Henri's story.
- 4 What \_\_\_\_\_?  
A necklace.
- 5 Who \_\_\_\_\_?  
No one.
- 6 How many people \_\_\_\_\_?  
Twenty.

**4** Read this paragraph and compare it with Exercise 2. Some of the facts are wrong. Correct them by writing sentences with negative verbs.

The students were sitting on the grass. Derek and Armando were arguing about music. Henri was describing the scenery in Florida. Penelope and Doris were waving at Henri and Doris was making a necklace. Margherita was taking a photo of the other students.

- 0 The students weren't sitting on the grass, they were lying on it.
- 1 Derek and Armando \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**1** Read the examples. Then choose the correct words to complete the rules.

- 1 I **was taking** photographs of the girls' BMX team.
- 2 They **were riding** around the track.

- a We use the past continuous to talk about actions in progress at a particular time in *the present / the past*.
- b We form the past continuous with the correct *present / past* form of *be* and the *infinitive / -ing* form of the verb.

**2** Choose the correct form of the verbs to make past continuous sentences.

- 1 They *were wearing / were wear* dark helmets.
- 2 He *isn't playing / wasn't playing* ice hockey last night.
- 3 My friends *wasn't talking / weren't talking* about sports.
- 4 What was he *doing / do* on the court?
- 5 *Were / Was* she watching the games?  
Yes, she *was / were*.
- 6 Mark *is climbing / was climbing* yesterday.
- 7 My parents *was going / were going* to a bike race.
- 8 Were they *listening / listen* to the match?  
No, they *weren't / wasn't*.

**3** Look at the picture of a park last Saturday morning. Write positive and negative past continuous sentences about what the people were and weren't doing.



0 Kim / play tennis / swim

*Kim was playing tennis.*

*She wasn't swimming.*

1 Adam and Pete / run / skate

---



---

2 Myla / throw a ball / hit a ball

---



---

3 Karl and Liam / play squash / kick a ball

---



---

4 Megan and Ana / cycle / climb

---



---

5 Lucy / catch a ball / do athletics

---



---

#### 4 Write questions in the past continuous.

0 you / do / sports at 3.30 yesterday?

*Were you doing sports at 3.30 yesterday?*

1 what / you / do / at 8.30 yesterday evening?

---

2 you / read / at 10.30 / yesterday evening?

---

3 what / you / wear / last / Sunday?

---

4 you / sleep / at midnight last night?

---

5 you / have / breakfast at 8.00 this morning?

---

6 what / you / do / five minutes ago?

---

#### 5 Ask and answer the questions in Exercise 4.