

# PAST CONTINUOUS

## WHEN?

### IS USED

a) if at a certain time in the past you were in the middle of doing something = an action in progress  
**ex. Yesterday at 2 30 pm I was washing my car.**

b) if you want to emphasize the duration of an action, ex. **I was washing my car for 1 hour.**

c) if you describe an interrupted action (while + when), ex. **While/When I was washing my car, Mark called me. When he called I was washing my car.**

d) to describe two actions happening at the same time in the past = two parallel actions (while)  
**ex. While I was washing my car, my mother was working in the garden.**

## HOW?

SUBJECT	WAS/ WERE	VERB + ING	WAS/WERE	SUBJECT	VERB+ING	SUBJECT	WASN'T/ WEREN'T	VERB+ING
I	WAS	WASHING	WAS	I	WASHING	I	WASN'T	WASHING
YOU	WERE	WASHING	WERE	YOU	WASHING	YOU	WEREN'T	WASHING
HE/ SHE/IT	WAS	WASHING	WAS	HE/ SHE/IT	WASHING	HE/ SHE/IT	WASN'T	WASHING
WE/ YOU/ THEY	WERE	WASHING	WERE	WE/ YOU/ THEY	WASHING	WE/ YOU/ THEY	WEREN'T	WASHING

## 1. PUT THE VERB IN THE CORRECT FORM:

- a) Yesterday at 8 p.m. I \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) TV.
- b) While they \_\_\_\_\_ (study), the teacher entered the classroom.
- c) At this time last year, I \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in London.
- d) We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football when it started to rain.
- e) She \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book when I called her.
- f) I \_\_\_\_\_ (not feel) well yesterday, so I stayed home.
- g) The children \_\_\_\_\_ (run) in the park when I saw them.
- h) While he \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on his project, his friend called him.
- i) They \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the bus when it suddenly broke down.

## 2. CORRECT THE MISTAKES:

- a) She was run in the park when it started to rain.
- b) I were reading a book when you called me.
- c) While they were cooking, they was listening to music.
- d) He was played football when his phone rang.
- e) We was studying all afternoon yesterday.

## 2. WRITE SENTENCES IN THE PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE:

- a) I / work / on a project) \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) they / not / wait / for the bus) \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) you / study / when I called?) \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) she / walk / in the park) \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) he / play / video games?) \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) we /not/ listen to / what he / say) \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. CHOOSE THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB (SIMPLE PAST or PAST CONTINUOUS) :

- a) When I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the party, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (dance).
- b) Yesterday, we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach and \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a great time.
- c) While I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book, my sister \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) TV.
- d) I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/like) the movie we \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) last night.
- e) When she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) home, her brother \_\_\_\_\_ (play) video games.
- f) They \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the café when I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) them.
- g) He \_\_\_\_\_ (not/understand) the question, so he \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) for help.
- h) I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a noise while I \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) last night.
- i) While I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) to work, I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) an old friend.
- j) She \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner when the doorbell \_\_\_\_\_ (ring).
- k) Liz was talking to me about her problems with her boyfriend when he \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive)
- l) What \_\_\_\_\_ at this time yesterday? - I was watching TV.
- m) He \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) my mobile phone while I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/look)
- n) While \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) in the park yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Mark.
- o) Last week when I \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) the wall, I \_\_\_\_\_ (stain) my shirt.
- p) When Mark and Sue \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) home yesterday, we \_\_\_\_\_ (have) dinner.
- q) While my mum \_\_\_\_\_ (do) the washing yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ (help) my brother with his homework. Everyone was busy.

1. Answer the questions giving real information about yourself.

- a) What were you doing at 6 p.m. yesterday?
- b) Were your friends playing sports when you saw them?
- c) What were you wearing when you went to the party?
- d) Was it raining when you were walking to school?
- e) How long was your friend working yesterday?
- f) What were you doing when your friend called you?
- g) What happened while you were leaving the house?
- h) What was your family doing while you were studying English?

**Yesterday at 6pm I was having dinner.**

2. Ask each other these questions in pairs and provide the answer indicated to you.

- a) What were you doing yesterday at 2 pm? → to work
- b) What was your brother doing yesterday at 10pm? → to sleep
- c) How long were you preparing your dinner yesterday? → 1 hour and a half
- d) How long were your children playing in the playground? → 45 minutes
- e) What were you doing when you broke your arm? → to play football
- f) What were you doing when I called you? → to watch tv
- g) What was your sister doing when she fell off the ladder? → to paint
- h) What happened while you were talking to your best friend → to notice my old friend
- i) What happened while you were playing basketball → to break my leg
- j) What was your flatmate doing while you were studying English? → to study French
- k) What was your mother doing while you were hoovering? → to clean the windows
- l) What were your children doing while you were talking on the phone? → to play with toys

**What were you doing yesterday at 2pm?  
I was sleeping.**

3. Describe the pictures:



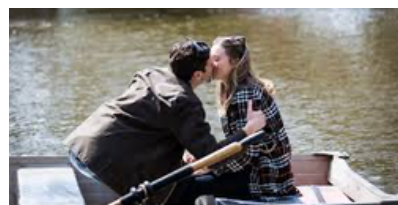
While Mike.....(ride a bike),  
he .....



While Lewis .....(watch TV),  
he .....



Martin .....(drink coffee), when  
he .....



While they .....(row a boat),  
he .....