

Past Continuous

Grammar Drill Pack

Focus: Distinguishing actions in progress at a past moment from simple past actions. — five short drills to lock in **Past Continuous**.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

1 · Rules

- ◆ Use the past continuous (was/were + verb-ing) to describe an action that was ongoing at a specific time in the past.
- ◆ The past continuous is often used with another past action introduced by when, while, or as.
- ◆ Negative past continuous is formed with was not/weren't + verb-ing.
- ◆ Questions in the past continuous use was/were before the subject.
- ◆ The past continuous can show two simultaneous actions, one in progress and another that interrupts it.

2 · Signal words

while when as at that moment during all night at 9 pm by the time

Tip: These words often flag **Past Continuous** — spot them, then choose the form.

3 · Gap-fill drill

Write the correct form of **Past Continuous** in each gap.

- 1 At 9 pm, I _____ a movie.
- 2 She _____ dinner when the phone rang.
- 3 They _____ for the exam all night.
- 4 He _____ to the teacher during the lecture.
- 5 The kids _____ in the garden while it started to rain.
- 6 We _____ to the coast when we saw a deer.

4 · Error correction

Each sentence has one mistake in Past Continuous. Rewrite it correctly.

1 I read a book when the lights went out.

2 She painted the fence while the sun was shining.

3 They had dinner at 8 pm.

4 He wasn't slept when the alarm rang.

5 We waited for the bus when it started to snow.

6 The dog barked loudly during the night.

5 • Mini-quiz

Choose the correct option (A-D).

1 Which sentence correctly uses the past continuous?

(A) I was reading a novel when the phone rang.

(B) I read a novel when the phone rang.

(C) I have read a novel when the phone rang.

(D) I will read a novel when the phone rang.

2 Choose the sentence that shows two actions happening at the same past time.

(A) She was cooking while he was watching TV.

(B) She cooked while he watched TV.

(C) She has cooked while he watches TV.

(D) She will cook while he watches TV.

3 Identify the correct negative form of the past continuous.

(A) They weren't playing football yesterday.

(B) They didn't play football yesterday.

(C) They wasn't playing football yesterday.

(D) They aren't playing football yesterday.

4 Which sentence correctly asks about an ongoing past activity?

(A) Was she studying when you called?

(B) Did she study when you called?

(C) Is she studying when you called?

(D) Has she studied when you called?

5 Select the sentence that uses a signal word for the past continuous.

(A) While they were dancing, the lights went out.

(B) When they danced, the lights went out.

(C) Because they danced, the lights went out.

(D) If they danced, the lights went out.

6 Which option correctly shows an interrupted past action?

(A) He was sleeping when the thunder started.

(B) He slept when the thunder started.

(C) He has been sleeping when the thunder started.

(D) He will be sleeping when the thunder started.