

## Continuous Tenses: Past

**FORM:**

Example: (walk)

I was walking	We were walking
You were walking	You were walking
She was walking	They were walking
He was walking	
It was walking	

The “**past progressive**” is formed by the past tense of “to be” (was/were) and (-ing) of the main verb.

**USE:**

The “**continuous**”/ “**progressive**” (both names are used) describes an action which is not finished, or was continuing, at a specific time. It can also be combined with another action introduced by words like “when” or “while”.

**EXAMPLES:**

*I was drinking a coffee at 8:00 a.m.*  
*I was sleeping like a baby when the alarm clock rang this morning.*  
*You were working, while she was sleeping.*

*Use the PAST TENSE or the PAST CONTINUOUS tense form of the verbs in parentheses as required by the meaning.*

1. The birds \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) when I woke up this morning.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) two books and one magazine last week.
3. John \_\_\_\_\_ (go) home last night by bus.
4. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a nap when her father picked her up.
5. Naomi \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to work on her bike this morning.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) last night when you called me.
7. Colleen \_\_\_\_\_ (play) her guitar while Bob \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep).
8. They \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) to a “heavy metal” concert at 7:00 p.m. last night.
9. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) hard when I left the office.
10. We \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) the zoo yesterday.

*Create sentences using the following ideas. Use the PAST CONTINUOUS.*

1. to travel in Europe \_\_\_\_\_
2. to sleep soundly \_\_\_\_\_
3. to talk with a friend \_\_\_\_\_
4. to order breakfast \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb.*

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) hand in hand when I saw them.
2. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) when we left the movie theatre.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.
4. When he left the office, it \_\_\_\_\_ (snow).
5. She \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to her husband while her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) dinner.

*Complete the following sentences, using the PAST PROGRESSIVE tense.*

1. I (read) \_\_\_\_\_
2. The baby (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_
3. They (eat) \_\_\_\_\_
4. He (work) \_\_\_\_\_
5. It (rain) \_\_\_\_\_