

# Grammar

## Forming the Past Continuous Tense

To form the verb in the Past Continuous Tense you need the correct form of 'to be' (was or were) and the -ing (Gerund) form of the verb.

I	was	reading a book.
He		watching TV.
She		going to the cinema.
It		playing basketball.
You	were	raining.
We		
They		

## Spelling rules

- Mostly the verb gets an -ing in the Present Continuous Tense. E.g.: starting, playing, looking, skiing ...
- If the verb is monosyllabic, it ends with a vowel + consonant, and the vowel is short (pronunciation) then the consonant at the end of the verb doubles. E.g.: run → running
- If the verb ends with -l, it doubles. E.g.: travel → travelling
- If the verb is multisyllabic, and 2<sup>nd</sup> point holds true of the last syllable then the consonant at the end of the verb doubles. E.g.: permit, admit
- If the verb ends with a mute -e, you have to leave it out. E.g.: make → making
- There are verbs ending with -ie, like 'lie'. In the Gerund form the 'ie' changes into 'y'. e.g.: lie → lying  
Other verbs: die, outlie, tie, untie, ...etc.

## Exceptions

There are some verbs that we don't use in the past continuous tense. (Because they aren't action verbs.)  
e.g.: like, love, hate, smell, seem, believe, understand, realise, belong, know, want, need, depend, suppose ...



## Past Continuous - Affirmative Sentences

Task 1 - Form the Gerund form of the following verbs.

- get → \_\_\_\_\_
- open → \_\_\_\_\_
- take → \_\_\_\_\_
- travel → \_\_\_\_\_
- do → \_\_\_\_\_
- lie → \_\_\_\_\_
- run → \_\_\_\_\_
- make → \_\_\_\_\_
- cut → \_\_\_\_\_
- eat → \_\_\_\_\_

Task 2 - Fill in the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the Past Continuous Tense.

- They \_\_\_\_\_ in the lake yesterday afternoon. (swim)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ on the coach. (sleep)
- I \_\_\_\_\_ a book. (read)
- We \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast at 7 am yesterday. (have)
- Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ the fence. (paint)
- The kids \_\_\_\_\_ the picture. (colour)
- You \_\_\_\_\_ about the accident. (talk)
- The dog \_\_\_\_\_ all last night. (bark)
- We \_\_\_\_\_ to the radio yesterday morning. (listen)
- Pete \_\_\_\_\_ his car last weekend. (wash)

Task 3 - Write the correct forms (Past Continuous) of the verbs on the lines from this list.



- to cook
- to drink
- to hide
- to plant
- to play
- to sing
- to wash
- to watch
- to water
- to write



- When I saw him, he \_\_\_\_\_ some milk.
- You \_\_\_\_\_ football when you broke your leg.
- Steve \_\_\_\_\_ TV when the lights went out.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ when the guests arrived.
- Mum \_\_\_\_\_ up when someone knocked at the door.
- Nelly \_\_\_\_\_ songs on the concert.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ the flowers when you came in.
- You \_\_\_\_\_ a test at 10 am yesterday.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ some seedlings yesterday afternoon.



**Task 4 - Rewrite the sentences into Past Continuous and use the given phrases.**

e.g. The boys are fighting in the schoolyard. (at 3 pm yesterday)  
→ The boys were fighting in the schoolyard at 3 pm yesterday.

1) They climbed the mountain. (when he fell off)

2) My dad's waiting for me. (at 4 pm yesterday)

3) You have a shower every day. (when the telephone rang)

4) I'll go home. (when I had a puncture)

5) The kids played in the sands. (yesterday)

6) You've put on some warm clothes. (when I came in)

7) Tom rides a bike on Mondays. (when I saw him)

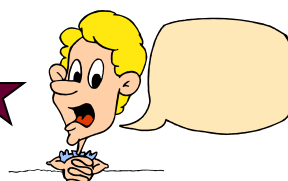
8) They're cleaning the windows now. (when it started to rain)

9) He will take notes. (from 2 to 4 yesterday)

10) Mum's ironed the laundry. (yesterday afternoon)

11) The students studied Maths.

12) I am staying with my friend this week.



# Key Answer

## Task 1

- 1) get → **getting**
- 2) open → **opening**
- 3) take → **taking**
- 4) travel → **travelling**
- 5) do → **doing**
- 6) lie → **lying**
- 7) run → **running**
- 8) make → **making**
- 9) cut → **cutting**
- 10) eat → **eating**

## Task 2

- 1) They **were swimming** in the lake yesterday afternoon.
- 2) He **was sleeping** on the coach.
- 3) I **was reading** a book.
- 4) We **were having** breakfast at 7 am yesterday.
- 5) Sarah **was painting** the fence.
- 6) The kids **were colouring** the picture.
- 7) You **were talking** about the accident.
- 8) The dog **was barking** all last night.
- 9) We **were listening** to the radio yesterday morning.
- 10) Pete **was washing** his car last weekend.

## Task 3

- 1) When I saw him, he **was drinking** some milk.
- 2) You **were playing** football when you broke your leg.
- 3) Steve **was watching** TV when the lights went out.
- 4) We **were cooking / washing** when the guests arrived.
- 5) Mum **was washing / cooking** up when someone knocked at the door.
- 6) Nelly **was singing** songs on the concert.
- 7) I **was watering / planting** the flowers when you came in.
- 8) You **were writing** a test at 10 am yesterday.
- 9) They **were planting / watering** some seedlings yesterday afternoon.

## Task 4

- 1) They **were climbing** the mountain when he fell off.
- 2) My dad **was waiting** for me at 4 pm yesterday.
- 3) You **were having** a shower when the telephone rang.
- 4) I **was going** home when I had a puncture.
- 5) The kids **were playing** in the sands yesterday.
- 6) You **were putting** on some warm clothes when I came in.
- 7) Tom **was riding** a bike when I saw him.
- 8) They **were cleaning** the windows when it started to rain.
- 9) He **was taking** notes from 2 to 4 yesterday.
- 10) Mum **was ironing** the laundry yesterday afternoon.
- 11) The students **were studying** Maths.
- 12) I **was staying** with my friend at this time last week.