

# ENGLISH GRAMMAR

## Lesson 3



# PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

- The past continuous tense, also known as the past progressive tense, refers to a continuing action that was happening at some point in the past. The past continuous tense is formed by combining the past tense of to be (i.e., was/were) with the verb's present participle (-ing word).

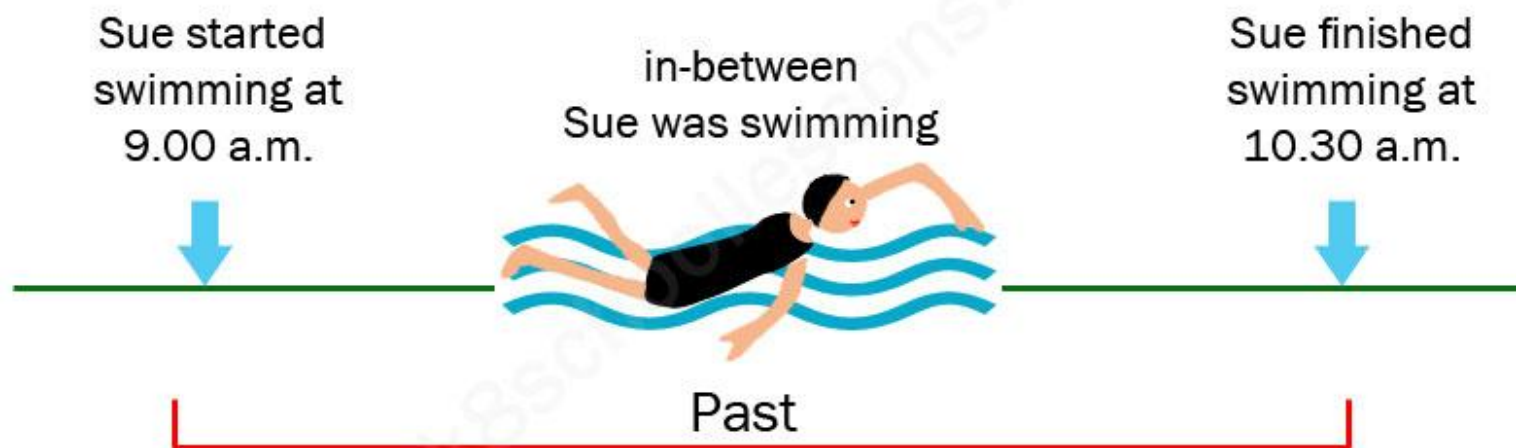
The sun **was shining** every day that summer.

As I spoke, the children **were laughing** at my cleverness.



The Past Continuous	
Affirmative	Negative
<i>I <b>was making</b> a lot of noise</i> <i>They <b>were shouting</b></i>	<i>I <b>was not making</b> a lot of noise</i> <i>They <b>were not shouting</b></i>
Questions	Short answers
<i><b>Was</b> she <b>making</b> a lot of noise?</i> <i><b>Were</b> they <b>shouting</b>?</i>	<i><b>Yes, she was</b> / <b>No she wasn't</b></i> <i><b>Yes, they were</b> / <b>No, they weren't</b></i>

## Explanation of the Past Continuous Tense



# WHEN SHOULD WE USE THE PAST CONTINUOUS

1: An action in the past which overlaps another action or a time. The action in the past continuous starts before and often continues after the other shorter action or time.

- I was walking to the station when I met John. (I started walking before I met John, and maybe I continued afterwards.)
- At three o'clock, I was working. (I started before three o'clock and finished after three o'clock.)

2: In the same way, we can use the past continuous for the background of a story. (We often use the past simple for the actions.) This is really a specific example of Use 1.

- The birds were singing, the sun was shining and in the cafés people were laughing and chatting. Amy sat down and took out her phone.



3: Temporary habits or habits that happen more often than we expect in the past. We often use 'always, constantly' or 'forever' here. This is the same as the way we use the present continuous for habits, but the habit started and finished in the past. This thing doesn't happen now.

- He was always leaving the tap running.
- She was constantly singing.

4: To emphasise that something lasted for a while. This use is often optional and we usually use it with time expressions like 'all day' or 'all evening' or 'for hours'.

- I was working in the garden all day.
- He was reading all evening.

Remember you can't use this tense or any continuous tense with stative verbs.



**Упражнение 1.** Choose the correct verb form (Past Simple or Past Continuous) to complete the sentences.

1. The film was rubbish, so we left / were leaving the cinema and went / were going to the cybercafé.
2. I didn't like / wasn't liking the program we watched / were watching, so I turned / was turning off the TV.
3. Dave rang / was ringing me while I did / was doing my homework.
4. As I fell / was falling asleep, I heard / was hearing a strange noise.
5. I dropped / was dropping my keys while I ran / was running for the bus.
6. The competition judges didn't know / weren't knowing whose food they tasted / were tasting.





**Упражнение 2.** Complete the email with the Past Simple or Past Continuous of these verbs. You will need to use some verbs more than once.

**Decide / get / give / go / happen / not hurt / play / try / want**

Last weekend Ben and I visited that new leisure center that everyone is talking about. We 1) \_\_\_\_\_ to the ice-skating rink first. Ben slipped a few times while he 2) \_\_\_\_\_ to do acrobatic tricks, but luckily he 3) \_\_\_\_\_ himself. After that, we went to the main hall to see what 4) \_\_\_\_\_ there. On one side of the hall a rock band 5) \_\_\_\_\_ while on the other side some skateboarders 6) \_\_\_\_\_ a display. The Skateboarders were fantastic so we 7) \_\_\_\_\_ to stay and watch them.

After the exhibition, we both 8) \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the shops inside the center. But it was nearly rush hour and the shops 9) \_\_\_\_\_ really crowded so we 10) \_\_\_\_\_ to the multiplex cinema to see The Illusionist. What a fantastic film!



**Упражнение 3.** Match the beginnings (1-7) with the endings (a-g). Then complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous of the verbs in brackets.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (climb) down the side of a building

2. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) brightly

3. The hot water tank \_\_\_\_\_ (explode)

4. When we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the concert

5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not know) that my friends

6. While you \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) on the beach

7. Last year, Simon \_\_\_\_\_ (give up) painting

a) while I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a shower.

b) the band \_\_\_\_\_ (play) my favourite song

c) when suddenly the rope \_\_\_\_\_ (break).

d) and \_\_\_\_\_ (take up) sculpture instead.

e) \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) a surprise party for me

f) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (get up) this morning.

g) we \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for our exams!





#### Упражнение 4. Вставьте Past Simple или Past Continuous

1. An amazing display of traditional-style canoes \_\_\_\_ last week in Portland (to begin).
2. Last month, we \_\_\_\_\_ the most amazing opportunity to head down to Nashville (to have).
3. These ladies \_\_\_\_\_ an apartment when they \_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_ English in Jakarta, Indonesia (to share, to teach).
4. Last year we \_\_\_\_\_ too tired even to make quality home design (to be).
5. While the tourists \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach, animators \_\_\_\_\_ coffee in the bar (to dance, to have).
6. Last time there \_\_\_\_\_ a snowfall in November in 2016 (to be).
7. A Qatari sheikh \_\_\_\_\_ more than £1billion on his art collection last year (to spend).
8. The hot-blooded and furious Tybalt \_\_\_\_\_ a grudge against Romeo (to bear).
9. While we \_\_\_\_\_ to a dive site we \_\_\_\_\_ the advantages of Utila, the smallest and most unspoiled of the Bay Islands of Honduras (to boat, to discuss).
10. In the late 1600s, the British \_\_\_\_\_ all non-English ships from trading with colonies (to forbid).
11. We \_\_\_\_\_ busy building our new country house that year (to be).
12. Our friend's dog \_\_\_\_\_ us as we \_\_\_\_\_ around the neighborhood (to follow, to walk).
13. The student \_\_\_\_\_ up the escalator while it \_\_\_\_\_ (to run, to move).



Choose the past simple or past continuous: 1. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (call) you last night? 2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in a café when you \_\_\_\_\_ (call). 3. When you \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the party, who \_\_\_\_\_ (be) there? 4. Susie \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a film when she \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the noise. 5. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the library, next I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a swim, later I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Julie for a coffee. 6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis when John \_\_\_\_\_ (hurt) his ankle. 7. What \_\_\_\_\_ (they / do) at 10pm last night? It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really noisy. 8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a shower when the telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (ring). 9. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the shower when the telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (ring). 10. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) into the room, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (work). ©



11. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a day last September. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine), the birds \_\_\_\_\_ (sing). I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) along the street when I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) an old friend. 12. He \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Russia when the Revolution \_\_\_\_\_ (start). 13. When her train \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the station, we \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) on the platform. 14. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) so annoying! He \_\_\_\_\_ (always / leave) his things everywhere. 15. On holiday we \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Rome, \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the Vatican, and \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a few days at the beach. 16. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you / stand) on a chair when I \_\_\_\_\_ (come) into the room? 17. They \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Germany when they \_\_\_\_\_ (be) young. 18. At 7pm yesterday, we \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music. 19. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the house, it \_\_\_\_\_ (snow). 20. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in a bank when he \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) his wife.



*Раскройте скобки, употребляя глаголы в Past Simple или Past Continuous.*

1. I (to go) to the cinema yesterday.
2. I (to go) to the cinema at four o'clock yesterday.
3. They (to go) to the cinema when they met me.
4. She (to learn) words the whole evening yesterday.
5. She (to learn) words when mother came home.
6. He (to work) in the garden yesterday.
7. He (to work) in the garden from five till eight yesterday.
8. My sister is fond of reading. She (to read) the whole evening yesterday.
9. The children (to do) their lessons at six o'clock yesterday.
10. I (not to play) the piano yesterday. I (to write) a letter to my friend.
11. I (not to play) the piano at four o'clock yesterday. I (to read) a book.
12. He (not to sleep) when father came home. He (to do) his homework.
13. When I (to go) to school the day before yesterday, I met Mike and Pete. They (to talk) and (to eat) an ice-cream.
14. The baby (to sleep) the whole evening yesterday. She (feel) bad.
15. What your father (to do) from eight till nine yesterday?
16. Why she (to cry) when I saw her yesterday?





*Заполните пропуски в диалоге, используя глаголы в Past Simple или Past Continuous.*

**Ann:** How \_\_\_\_ your holiday at the seaside?

**Ben:** Oh, it \_\_\_\_ wonderful, thank you! We \_\_\_\_ a great fun!

**Ann:** What (you / do) \_\_\_\_\_ there?

**Ben:** In the mornings, while my parents still (have breakfast) \_\_\_\_\_, I (play) \_\_\_\_\_ tennis with my friend Harry. After that, at about 10 o'clock we (swim) \_\_\_\_\_ in the sea and (play) \_\_\_\_\_ football on the beach.

**Ann:** Yes, that sounds good! And what (you / do) \_\_\_\_\_ in the afternoons after your lunch?

**Ben:** After lunch (we / go) \_\_\_\_\_ on some interesting excursions around the place where (we / stay) \_\_\_\_\_ that week. In the evenings after dinner (we / watch) \_\_\_\_\_ films on TV or (we / play) \_\_\_\_\_ chess with my Dad.

**Ann:** I see, and what (you / do) \_\_\_\_\_ between 5 pm and dinner time?

**Ben:** Well, when the weather was nice and warm, my friend and I (have fun) \_\_\_\_\_ at the seaside. We (swim) \_\_\_\_\_ or (play) \_\_\_\_\_ volleyball on the beach.

**Ann:** Fantastic! Next time I'll go with you.



*Переведите предложения на английский язык, используя глаголы в Past Simple или Past Continuous.*

1. В то время, когда Катя путешествовала по Америке, она узнала, что известная поп-звезда выступает в Лос-Анджелесе.
2. Я смотрел телевизор в то время, когда случилось это ужасное происшествие.
3. Когда прозвенел звонок, ученики все еще писали сочинение.
4. Что Вы делали вчера в пять часов вечера? — Вчера в пять часов вечера я ехал на машине и слушал радио.
5. Ты видела Сергея и Михаила в воскресенье? — Да, когда я их видела, они играли в волейбол в парке. — Странно, они обычно играют в парке по субботам.





*Раскройте скобки и поставьте глаголы в нужной форме.*

I \_\_\_\_ (meet) a man in a pub once and he \_\_\_\_ (tell) me this story. A friend of his \_\_\_\_ (work) on his car one morning. This friend \_\_\_\_ (have) a large dog. Before he \_\_\_\_ (start) work, he \_\_\_\_ (put) the dog in the car and \_\_\_\_ (close) the door. Well, he was under his car, \_\_\_\_ (work) busily, when suddenly he \_\_\_\_ (hear) a mechanical noise, and the car \_\_\_\_ (start) to move forward. He \_\_\_\_ (jump) up, but too late — the car \_\_\_\_ (roll) slowly down the hill, and the dog \_\_\_\_ (sit) at the wheel as if it \_\_\_\_ (drive). Finally, it \_\_\_\_ (come) to rest in a neighbour's garden.

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*Раскройте скобки и поставьте глаголы в нужной форме.*

When I \_\_\_\_ (go) shopping, I \_\_\_\_ (see) my friend. I \_\_\_\_ (say) 'Hello!' and we \_\_\_\_ (start) talking. While we \_\_\_\_ (talk), a car \_\_\_\_ (run into) a man on a bike. When we \_\_\_\_ (see) the accident, I \_\_\_\_ (phone) for an ambulance. While I \_\_\_\_ (wait) for the ambulance, a policeman \_\_\_\_ (arrive). He (ask) us some questions. The ambulance \_\_\_\_ (come), while I \_\_\_\_ (talk) to the policeman. The ambulance \_\_\_\_ (take) the man to hospital and we \_\_\_\_ (go) to a cafe for a cup of coffee. While we \_\_\_\_ (drink) our coffee, we \_\_\_\_ (discuss) about the accident.

