**Lesson 9: Past progressive**

The past progressive or past continuous tense is used for actions that occurred at a specific time in the past. Like the present continuous, it is formed using the verb “to be” as well as the *verb+ing*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Form** | **Examples** |
| Positive: S + **was/were + Ving** + …  **I, He, She, It or singular subject** + **was** + Ving  **You, We, They or plural subject** + **were** + Ving | **Ex1** He **was talking** with his friends.  **Ex2** They **were doing** their homework. |
| Negative: S + **was / were + not** + **Ving.** | **Ex.** Sok **was not reviewing** English lessons. |
| Question: **Was / Were** + S + **Ving ?** | **Ex. Was** James **running** outside yesterday evening? |
| **Uses** | **Examples** |
| We use the past continuous to talk about actions or events that happened at a specific time in the past. | **Ex.** Laura wasn’t staying in Phnom Penh in 2018.  **Ex.** We were still working at 10 o’clock last night. |
| **Note:** Please see the lesson on present progressive or present continuous tense for rules on forming verbs plus –ing (**Ving**) and the exceptional verbs that can’t be used in the continuous form. | |

**Practice**

**A. Instruction**: Write the *ing* form of the verbs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Infinitives** | **Verb + ing** | **Infinitives** | **Verb + ing** |
| live | living | try | trying |
| stay | staying | travel | travelling |
| run | running | eat | eating |
| win | winning | argue | Argueing |
| cycle | cycling | see | Seeing |

**B. Instruction**: Complete the table in past progressive.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** | **Negative** | **Question** |
| It was raining. | \_ \_ \_  It wasn’t raining. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_  Was it raining ?\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |
| \_ \_ \_  They were playing.\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | They were not playing. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |
| \_ \_ \_  I was listening.\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_  I wasn’t listening \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | Was I listening? |
| \_ \_ \_ \_ \_Caron was not \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | Caron was not eating. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |
| You were singing. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |

**C. Instruction**: Put the verbs into the correct form (past progressive).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | When I phoned my friends, they  were playing\_\_\_\_ (play) a computer game. | 11 | I tried to tell them the truth, but they  (not / listen) weren’t listening\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| 2 | Yesterday at six, I (prepare)  was preparing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dinner. | 12 | What (you / do) \_were you doing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yesterday? |
| 3 | The kids (play) \_were playing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the garden when it suddenly began to rain. | 13 | Most of the time, we (sit) \_\_\_\_\_  were sitting\_\_\_\_\_ in the park. |
| 4 | I (practice) \_was praticing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the guitar when he came home. | 14 | I (listen) \_\_\_\_\_was listening\_\_\_\_\_ to the radio while my sister (watch) \_\_\_\_  was watching\_\_\_\_\_\_ TV. |
| 5 | We (not / cycle) \_weren’t cycling\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all day. | 15 | When I arrived, they (play) \_\_\_  were playing\_\_\_\_\_\_ cards. |
| 6 | While Alan (work) \_was working\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his room, his friends (swim)  were swimming\_\_\_\_\_ in the pool. | 16 | We (study) \_\_were studying\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English yesterday at 4:00 pm. |
| 7 | I (run) \_\_\_\_\_was running\_\_\_\_\_ when you saw me because I was late. | 17 | Tomek (not / eat) \_\_wasn’t eating\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a sandwich when Ben fell into the river. |
| 8 | They (wait) \_\_\_\_were waiting\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a bus when  the car crashed. | 18 | What (do) \_\_\_were \_\_\_\_\_\_ Carol and Jack  \_\_\_\_doing\_\_\_\_\_ when Pedro phoned? |
| 9 | Gabi and Laura (dance) \_\_\_\_  were dancing\_\_\_\_\_ at 8pm. | 19 | Pedro and Nike (not / laugh)  were laughing\_\_\_ when Ben fell in the river. |
| 10 | \_\_\_Was \_\_\_\_ Sally \_\_\_\_taking\_\_\_\_(take) a photo when I phoned? | 20 | We (revise) \_\_were revising\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all afternoon in the library. |