**Past Continuous Tense Examples**

Past Continuous (Progressive) Tense refers to ongoing actions in the past. If we want to talk about some past action that is completed while another is still going on, we use the Past Continuous for the longer unfinished action and the simple past for the shorter completed action.

## Definition

Past continuous or past progressive tense is used to describe past actions that have not been finished.

## Formula

In past continuous tense, we use present participle. See the structure of affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences.

### Affirmative Sentences

Formula for affirmative sentences.

Subject + was/were + present participle + object

* **He/She/It/I + was** + present participle.
* **They/We/You + were** + present participle.

**Examples**

* They **were doing** useful work.
* He **was driving** to work yesterday.

### Negative Sentences

Subject + was/were + not + present participle + object

**Examples**

* They **were not doing** useful work.
* He **was not driving** to work yesterday.

### Interrogative Sentences (Questions)

Was/were + subject + present participle + object + ?

**Examples**

* **Were** they **doing** useful work**?**
* **Was** he **driving** to work yesterday**?**

## Usage

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| **Usage** | **Example** |
| To show an action that was in progress at some specific time in past. | We **were having** lunch at 02:00 pm yesterday. |
| To describe the ongoing action when another action started . | I **was driving** car when she called me. |
| To describe two or more ongoing actions in the past. | He **was drinking** tea while he **was watching** TV. |
| To describe the specific situation. | When I entered the house, the chef **was cooking** the meal, and the **kids were watching** cartoons. |

## Past Continuous Tense Examples (20 Sentences)

1. I **was traveling** to Venice last month.
2. He **was sitting** idle.
3. She fell when she **was running.**
4. I **was reading** my favorite novel last night.
5. The mechanic **was repairing** my car last week.
6. They **were arranging** a trip to hill station a few days ago.
7. She **was having** dinner last night.
8. I **was answering** the phone call when she entered the room.
9. While I **was going** home, it started raining.
10. What **were** you **doing** at 9 p.m. yesterday?.
11. I **was playing** with the kids at 6 p.m. yesterday.
12. He **was enjoying** a sound sleep a few hours ago.
13. We **were playing** chess three hours ago.
14. Tina **was playing** the guitar.
15. Who **was mopping** the floor?
16. He **was not watching** the movie with his friend.
17. While I **was driving** to the market, my car suddenly stopped.
18. While she **was preparing** for dinner, the doorbell rang.
19. While Tom **was playing** football, his leg broke.
20. While I **was reading** the book, I was drinking coffee.

## Past Continuous Tense Paragraph Exercises

A young lady \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (travel) on the train. A man \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stand) near her who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (chew) gum. A cute girl \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (also sit) opposite her. The train was on its way to the destination in the morning. Some passengers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) on their seats when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) breakfast.

**Solution**

A young lady **was traveling** on the train. A man **was standing** near her who **was chewing** gum. A cute girl **was also sitting** opposite to her. The train was on its way to the destination in the morning. Some passengers **were sleeping** on their seats when we **were having** breakfast.