**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*.

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| **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.

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| **Infinitives** | **Verb + ing** | **Infinitives** | **Verb + ing** |
| live | Living | try | tr |
| stay | Staying | travel | Travelling |
| ingrun | Running | eat | Eating |
| win | Winning | argue | Argueing |
| cycle | cycling | see | seeing |

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

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| **Positive** | **Negative** | **Question** |
| It was raining. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |
| \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | They were not playing. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |
| \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | Was I listening? |
| \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | Caron was not eating. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |
| You were singing. | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ |

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

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| 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 listenning\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| 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 practicing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the guitar when he came home. | 14 | I (listen) \_\_\_listened\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_weren’t laughing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when Ben fell in the river. |
| 10 | Sally \_\_\_\_was taking\_\_\_\_(take) a photo when I phoned? | 20 | We (revise) \_were revising\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all afternoon in the library. |