

Past Continuous

1. Actions that were in progress at a special time in the past.

✦ I **was** **studying** for my English exam at 11 o'clock last Saturday.

To be + action with the ing form

✦ Peter and his friends **were** **playing** soccer this time last Sunday.

To be + action with the ing form

2. Repeated actions over a past period of time.

✦ Last summer Tony **was** **practicing** the guitar three times a day.

To be + action with the ing form

✦ My friends **were** **chatting** every day.

To be + action with the ing form

3. Something changes or grows.

✦ I was in hurry to get school because it **was** **getting** late. (the time was changing).

To be + **action with the ing form**

✦ My plants **were** **growing** quickly last spring.

To be + **action with the ing form**

Note: we often use one auxiliary with more than one ing form if the subject of the verbs remains the same.

✦ The boy and the girl **were** **sitting** in the car, just staring at each other.

To be + **action with the ing form**

It is very important to pay attention to the following charts where you will find the grammar structure in its three different forms: affirmative, negative and interrogative.

In most of the verbs you add **ing**

- Cooking**ing**
- Playing**ing**
- Sleeping**ing**

But in some cases you have to change the verb.

Verbs ending in: **consonant + vowel + consonant**, double the final letter

- run > run**ning**
- plan > plan**ning**

Verbs ending in “e”: you delete “e” and add **ing**

- come > com**ing**
- make > mak**ing**

Affirmative			
Subject	Past form to be	Action + ing	Complement
I	was	watch ing	a horror movie last night.
You	were		
He She It	was		
We You They	were		

Negative			
Subject	Past form to be	Action + ing	Complement
I	was not	watch ing	a horror movie last night.
You	were not		
He She It	was not		
We You They	were not		

Interrogative			
Past form to be	Subject	Action + ing	Complement
Was	I	watch ing	a horror movie last night?
Were	you		
Was	he she it		
Were	we you they		

Short answers

Yes,	I he she it	was.
No,	we you they	weren't.

Example:

- Were you working yesterday afternoon?
Yes, I was.
- Was Mr. Garcia studying all night?
No, he wasn't.

You can also make questions to get more information. Just add *wh-* at the beginning of the interrogative sentence.

Example:

- Where were you working yesterday afternoon?
I was working at the hospital.
- Who was driving your car last night?
My brother was.

Note: There are certain verbs that you can't use with the past continuous. These are the **stative verbs**.

Stative verbs

- Dislike
- Hate
- Like
- Love
- Need
- Prefer
- Want