



Past continuous

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Inglés

Past continuous

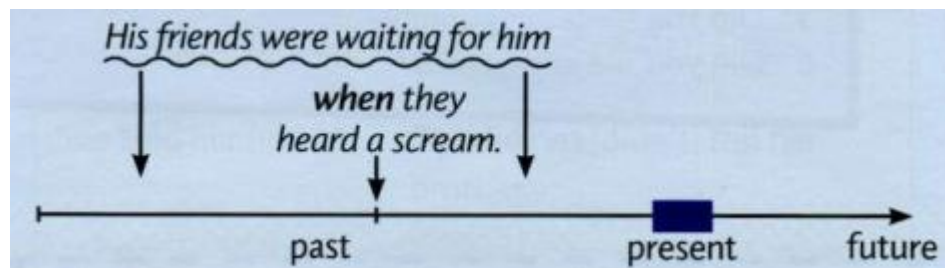
1. Use the past continuous to talk about events which were in progress at a particular time in the past.

At that time everyone **was talking** about the alligators in the sewers.

2. Use the past continuous to set the background to a story – to talk about what was going on when an event happened. The main events are usually in the past simple.

His friends **were waiting** for him in the street. They *heard* a scream.

3. Use **when** or **while** to link **past simple** and **past continuous**. We can use **when** before the **past simple** or the **past continuous**.



When his friends were waiting for him, they heard a scream.

We can also use **while** before the **past continuous**.

While his friends were waiting for him, they heard a scream.

4. Use **when** with the **past continuous** in both parts of a sentence to talk about situations going on at the same time.

While we **were studying** English, my wife and I **were living** in New York.

* When **when** and **while** come at the beginning of a sentence, put a **comma** in the middle of the sentence.

While I was falling, I closed my eyes.

5. Use the **past continuous** to give the reason for a past event.

I **forgot** about the bath because I **was talking** on the telephone.

She **shouted** at me because I **was** driving fast.

6. Make the **past continuous** using the verb **was / were** + verb + -ing form.

	statement ✓	negative ✗
You / We / They	were working	were not (weren't) working
I / He / She / It	was working	was not (wasn't) working

question?	short answer
Were you / we / they working?	Yes, (you) were . No, (you) were not (weren't) .
Was he / she / it working?	Yes, (I) was . No, (I) were not (weren't) .

If a verb ends in **-e**, drop the **-e**.

dance → People **were dancing**. NOT ~~...dancing~~

If a verb ends in **one vowel** and **one consonant**, **double consonant**.

stop → The train **was stopping**. NOT ~~...stoping~~

-ing form

most verbs	+ -ing	work - working
verbs ending -e ! except be is irregular	remove e + -ing	come - coming be - being
verbs ending -ee	+ -ing	see → seeing
verbs ending in vowel + b, g, m, n, p, t ! except if final syllable is not stressed	double consonant + -ing	get - getting visit - visiting
verbs ending -l ! North American English has one l	double l + ing	travel - travelling traveling
verbs ending in -ie	ie → y + ing	lie - lying