

## Grammar study – Past Simple / Past Continuous

Tense	Use	Formation	Time markers
Past Simple	Refers to completed actions that occurred in the past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He <b>worked</b> as an accountant.</li> <li>He <b>didn't work</b> as an accountant.</li> <li><b>Did</b> he <b>work</b> as an accountant?</li> </ul>	Yesterday, the day before, last week/month/year, a week/month/year ago, the day/week before, then
Past Continuous	Refers to actions that occurred in the past but took place over a period of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She <b>was working</b> then.</li> <li>She <b>wasn't working</b> then.</li> <li><b>Was</b> she <b>working</b> then?</li> </ul>	When, while, as, at that time/moment

The Past Continuous tense of any verb is formed from the Simple Past of the auxiliary **to be**, followed by what is generally referred to as the **Present Participle** of the verb.

The Present Participle of a verb is formed by adding **ing** to the infinitive. For instance, the Present Participle of the verb **to work** is **working**.

Thus, the Present Continuous tense of the verb **to work** is conjugated as follows:

I was working

We were working

You were working

You were working

He/she/it was working

They were working

## Exercises

1. Choose the correct form of the verb for each situation.

1.1. He was waiting half an hour before they \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive).

1.2. He \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) me to say they were running late.

1.3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to Jim on the phone when I walked in.

- 1.4. I met them in the street while I \_\_\_\_\_ (shop).
- 1.5. We were walking down by the river when it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) raining.
- 1.6. They \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) when they were working in London.
- 1.7. I cut my finger while I \_\_\_\_\_ (chop) vegetables.
- 1.8. The plane \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) a little over an hour late.

2. Match the following sentences.

1	They arrived early while I
2	Paul cooked dinner while we
3	The doorbell rang
4	He wrote six novels when
5	She had a car accident because
6	I was writing an email when

a	while I was watching TV.
b	was still sleeping.
c	my computer went off.
d	were having a glass of wine.
e	he was living in England.
s	she was driving too fast.

3. Use the correct verbs in order to complete the story.

didn't see	was talking	walked	was going
was coming	was going	was walking	was having
was talking	sounded	saw	was saying

I \_\_\_\_\_ Jerry in town this morning but he \_\_\_\_\_ me. In fact, he \_\_\_\_\_ straight past me. I \_\_\_\_\_ into the bank as he \_\_\_\_\_ out. He \_\_\_\_\_ very quickly and not looking where he \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ to someone on his phone. I think he \_\_\_\_\_ an argument, he \_\_\_\_\_ very angry. Like a lot of people when they talk on their mobile, he \_\_\_\_\_ rather loudly and everybody could hear what he \_\_\_\_\_.