

Tizayuca

Área Académica: Licenciatura en Turismo.

Tema: Past progressive/continuous

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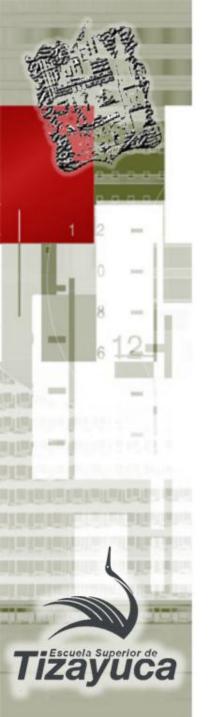
### Tema: Past progressive/continuous

### Abstract

Students need to know grammar structures in order to communicate well.

This is a basic tense.

# Keywords: Past progressive/continuous, interrupted actions



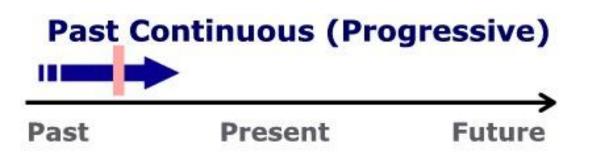
#### Past Progressive – Diagram

We use the Past Progressive when we talk about something which was happening around a period of time in the past.

### Past Continuous (Progressive)



We use the Past Progressive (blue) together with the Simple Past (pink). The Past Progressive is used for the action in the past which was in progress when a new action (Simple Past) happened.



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Two actions which were in progress in the past do not influence each other.

## Past Continuous (Progressive) Past Present Future



### AFFIRMATIVE, NEGATIVE AND QUESTIONS

Affirmative sentences:

l/he/she/it **was playing** football. We/you/they **were playing** football.

#### NOTE: Use was with I, he, she, it and were with all other pronouns.

In affirmative sentences we do not use short forms in the Past Progressive.

Negative sentences:

I/he/she/it was not playing football.
We/you/they were not playing football.
We use short forms in the Past Progressive in negative sentences:
I/he/she/it wasn't playing football.
We/you/they weren't playing football.



#### **Questions:**

In the Past Progressive we put the auxiliary (was or were) before the subject (Auxiliary - Subject - Verb - Rest). see: Questions in Past Progressive Was I/he/she/it playing football? Were we/you/they playing football?



## SHORT AND LONG FORM

#### Long forms and short forms in the Past Progressive

We use short forms of the auxiliaries. The Past Progressive is formed with the auxiliary to be (was, were), so short forms are only possible in negative sentences.

affirmative		
long form	short form	
I was reading		
he, she, it:		
he <b>was reading</b>	can't be formed	
we, you, they:		
we <b>were reading</b>		



negative (not after to be)		
long form	short form	
I was not reading	I wasn't reading	
he, she, it:	he, she, it:	
he <b>was not reading</b>	he <b>wasn't reading</b>	
we, you, they:	we, you, they:	
we were not reading	we <b>weren't reading</b>	





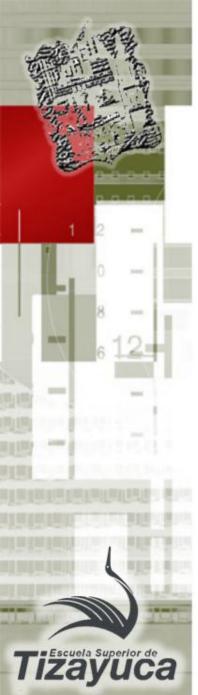
#### Past Progressive/Continuous - Signal words

Signal words tell you what tense you have to use. In the Past Progressive we often use a period of time. A typical signal word is **while**. The Past Progressive is frequently used in sentences together with the Simple Past.

while (In this part of the sentence we usually use Past Progressive.)

While we were watching TV, Andy was surfing the internet. when (In this part of the sentence we usually use Simple Past. The Past Progressive is used in the other part of the sentence.)

The ladies were talking when the accident happened.





#### Past Progressive – Spelling

Be careful with some words when adding -ing to the infinitive.

 1) consonant after a short, stressed vowel at the end of the word

Double the consonant.

sit – he **was** sitting put - he **was** putting

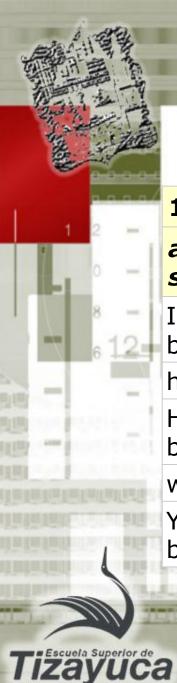
If the consonant is not stressed, we do not double it: benefit - benefiting (Here we stress the first 'e', not the 'i'.) In British English we double one -I at the end of the word: travel – travelling

• 2) one -e at the end of the word Leave out the -e.

write – he was writing take – he was taking BUT: double –e: add -ing see – he was seeing



- 3) verbs ending in -ie
  Change 'ie' to 'y'.
  lie he was lying
- 4) verbs ending in -c
  Change 'c' to 'ck'.
  picnic he was picnicking





#### 1) have as a full verb

	<i>affirmative sentence</i>	negative sentence	question
	I <b>was having</b> a bath.	I <b>was not having</b> a bath.	<b>Was</b> I <b>having</b> a bath?
	he, she, it:		
	He <b>was having</b> a bath.	He <b>was not</b> having a bath.	<b>Was</b> he <b>having</b> a bath?
we, you, they:			
	You <b>were having</b> a bath.	We <b>were not</b> having a bath.	<b>Were</b> we <b>having</b> a bath?



#### 2) do as a full verb

exercise.

	<i>affirmative sentence</i>	negative sentence	question
	I <b>was doing</b> an exercise.	I <b>was</b> not doing an exercise.	Was I doing an exercise?
he, she, it:			
	He <b>was doing</b> an exercise.	He <b>was</b> not doing an exercise.	<b>Was</b> he <b>doing</b> an exercise?
	we, you, they:		
	We <b>were doing</b> an exercise	We <b>were</b> not doing an	Were we doing an exercise?

exercise.

exercise?





#### Past Progressive – Use

- 1) actions were in progress at special time in the past Peter was reading a book yesterday evening.
  - two actions were happening at the same time (the actions do not influence each other)
- Anne **was writing** a letter while Steve **was reading** the New York Times.
- 3) together with the Simple Past While we were sitting at the breakfast table, the telephone rang.
- 4) repeated actions irritating the speaker (with always, constantly, forever)

Andrew was always coming late.

Past Progressive - Signal words While Past Progressive - Form to be (was, were) + infinitive + -ing

*Past Progressive - Examples* Affirmative sentences:

I was playing football. You were playing football.

#### **Negative sentences:**

I was	You <b>were</b>
not playing football.	not playing football.
I was't playing football	You <b>weren't playing</b> fo otball
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#### Questions:

#### Was I playing football?

Were you playing football?





#### Past Progressive/Continuous – Use

The Past Progressive is used when we talk about something which was happening at a special time in the past. It is also called Past Continuous. Have a look at the following examples:

• 1) action was in progress at special time in the past Peter was reading a book yesterday evening. She was listening to the radio.

2) two actions were happening at the same time (the actions do not influence each other)

Anne was writing a letter while Steve was reading the New York Times.

• 3) together with the Simple Past While we were sitting at the breakfast table, the telephone rang.

#### Note:

Past Progressive: **were sitting** at the table Simple Past: the telephone **rang**.



The action in the Simple Past interrupted the action in the Past Progressive.

**4) repeated actions irritating the speaker** (with always, constantly, forever)

Andrew was always coming late. (I don't like it.)

#### Simple Past:

Andrew always came late. (Here I don't give a comment.)



## Taken from:

http://www.englischhilfen.de/en/grammar/past\_progressive\_diagram.htm