



Basic
SPOKEN ENGLISH WITH



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PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE



Past Continuous Tense

Past Continuous Tense

Past continuous tense expresses the actions or task that were ongoing in the past. We cannot determine when the action started or finished.



- Sub+ was/were + V1(-ing)
- He was traveling to Venice.



- Sub + was/were + not + V1(-ing)
- He was not traveling to Venice.



- Was/were + Sub + V1(-ing) + ?
- Was he traveling to Venice?



Past Continuous Tense

The past continuous is made from the past tense of the verb **be** and the **-ing** form of a verb:

- For something **which happened before and after another action**:

The children were doing their homework when I got home.

Compare: *The children **did** their homework when (= after) I got home.*

This use of the past continuous is very common at the beginning of a story:

*The other day **I was waiting** for a bus when ...*

*Last week, as **I was driving** to work, ...*



Past Continuous Tense

- For something that **happened before and after a specific time**:

It was eight o'clock. I was writing a letter.

Compare: *At eight o'clock I wrote (= started writing) some letters.*

- To show that something **continued for some time**:

My head was aching.

Everyone was shouting.



Past Continuous Tense

- For something that **happened again and again:**

I was practising every day, three times a day.

They were meeting secretly after school.

They were always quarrelling.

- With verbs which show **change or growth:**

The children were growing up quickly.

Her English was improving.

My hair was going grey.

The town was changing quickly.



You're Awesome.

