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B1 TENSES ≈ 27 MIN

Past Continuous — *practice on paper*

You have built the lesson — now lock the tense in, scene by scene. New examples, same rule.

> What was running then: **was/were** + verb- **ing** — the background runs on, the interruption takes the past simple

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ○ 2 · FILL-IN ○ 3 · CORRECT ○ 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT BY SUBJECT · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Read each sentence quietly and check the subject. I, he, she, it or a singular subject → write it with **was** in the left column. You, we, they or a plural subject → write it with **were** in the right column.

- I was drafting the agenda
- we were planning the launch
- she was leading the workshop
- they were fixing the login bug
- Mark was updating the slides
- you were checking your emails
- the intern was filing invoices
- the engineers were testing the backup
- it was snowing outside
- my colleagues were queuing for coffee

WAS + I/HE/SHE/IT (SINGULAR)	WERE + YOU/WE/THEY (PLURAL)

BRICK 2 · FILL IN THE CORRECT FORM · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Fill in the correct form of the verb in brackets. Action in progress → **was/were + -ing**. Short interrupting event → **past simple**. Match was/were to the subject.

01 At 8:30, I _____ (sit) in a traffic jam.

02 We _____ (scan) the invoices when the fire alarm went off.

03 Tom _____ (update) the price list all afternoon.

04 While I was travelling to Berlin, my colleagues _____ (handle) my inbox.

05 He _____ (not listen) when I asked him twice.

06 _____ you ___ (work) from home yesterday?

07 The Wi-Fi _____ (crash) while I was uploading the file.

08 When I arrived, everyone _____ (talk) about the merger.

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence hides exactly one mistake with the past continuous. Underline it and write the whole sentence correctly.

01 We was finalising the slides when the projector failed.

02 She was prepare her notes before the meeting.

03 He was wanting a coffee during the meeting.

04 During we were updating the app, the server went down.

05 I working on the report all morning.

06 I was packing my suitcase when the taxi was arriving.

BRICK 4 · WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one sentence for each prompt. Check both bricks: **was/were** matching the subject and the main verb with **-ing**.

01 Your morning: "At eight, I was …" — describe what was in progress at eight this morning.

02 An interruption: "I was … when …" — a running activity and the short event that interrupted it.

03 Teamwork: "While I was …, my colleague was …" — two tasks running at the same time.

04 Your status report: "All morning, we were …" — a longer task from your last work week.

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- [ ] I can form the past continuous with was/were + verb-ing: "She was waiting."
- [ ] I match was or were to the subject: "I was", "they were".
- [ ] I can describe an interruption: a running action in the past continuous, a short event in the past simple.
- [ ] I link parallel actions with while and keep stative verbs like know, want, need in the past simple.

Not every box ticked? Build the lesson once more and try this sheet again tomorrow.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 I **was** drafting the agenda
"I" takes was.

02 we **were** planning the launch
"We" takes were.

03 she **was** leading the workshop
"She" is singular → was.

04 they **were** fixing the login bug
"They" is plural → were.

05 Mark **was** updating the slides
One name counts as he/she → was.

06 you **were** checking your emails
"You" takes were.

07 the intern **was** filing invoices
"The intern" is singular → was.

08 the engineers **were** testing the backup
"The engineers" is plural → were.

09 it **was** snowing outside
"It" takes was.

10 my colleagues **were** queuing for coffee
"My colleagues" is plural → were.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 **was sitting** in a traffic jam
Exact past moment: the action was in progress; "I" → was.

02 **were scanning** the invoices
Running background for the short event; "we" → were.

03 **was updating** the price list
"All afternoon" shows an extended process; "Tom" → was.

04 **were handling** my inbox
While links two parallel actions — both in the past continuous.

05 **wasn't listening**
Negative: not after was — "wasn't listening".

06 **Were** you **working**
Question by inversion: Were + subject + -ing form.

07 The Wi-Fi **crashed**
The short interrupting event takes the past simple: "crashed".

08 everyone **was talking**
"Everyone" counts as singular → was; the scene was running when I arrived.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 We **were** finalising the slides when the projector failed.
"We" takes were, not was.

02 She was **preparing** her notes before the meeting.
After was/were the main verb needs the -ing form: "preparing".

03 He **wanted** a coffee during the meeting.
"Want" is a stative verb and stays in the past simple.

04 **While** we were updating the app, the server went down.
Before a full clause with subject and verb use "while"; "during" comes before a noun.

05 I **was** working on the report all morning.
The form needs both bricks: "was" + "working".

06 I was packing my suitcase when the taxi **arrived**.
The interrupting short event takes the past simple: "arrived".

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ — just check that your was/were matches the subject and the main verb ends in -ing.

01 At eight, I **was checking** my inbox.
"I" → was + -ing.

02 I **was writing** an email when the screen **went** black.
Running background in the past continuous, short event in the past simple.

03 While I **was preparing** the agenda, my colleague **was booking** the room.
While + two parallel actions — both with was/were + -ing.

04 All morning, we **were answering** customer questions.
"We" → were; "all morning" shows the extended process.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PAIR WITH THIS
Past Simple
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/past-simple

NEXT STEP
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