



TO LEARN THE PAST
CONTINUOUS TENSE



Past Conintnuous

The New York Times

This interstellar apparition announced itself in August, when Gennady Borisov, a Crimean astronomer and veteran comet hunter, noticed a furry dot of light cruising through the stars of Cancer on a peculiar path. Astronomers around the world fell over themselves trying to find out where it came from and where it was going.



Mr Allen described Mr Murphy as "growth-orientated seasoned business leader" and said he had been looking for "experience, proven leadership in international retail businesses, a strong strategic mind"

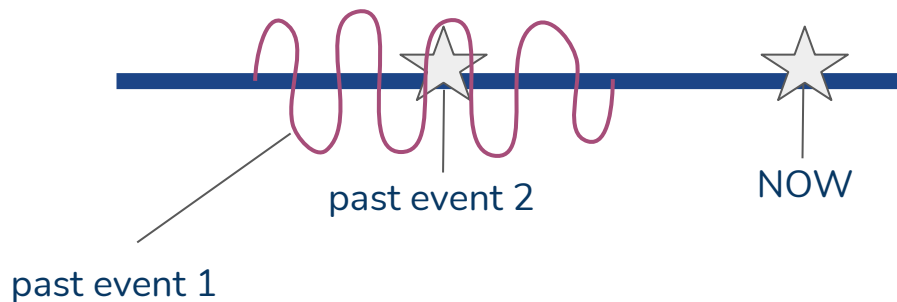
In preparation for Brexit, Tesco said it was increasing its stock of long-life shelf products and noted that the UK imports about 50% of fresh food it needs.

EVERETT — Hotel Indigo, Snohomish County's new waterfront hotel, opened its doors Tuesday and within hours had international fans.

Wade Lam and his wife, Judy Zhou, were visiting from Hong Kong and planned a week-long stay at the nautical-themed hotel.

"It's very beautiful, very nice," said Lam, who was strolling along the Pacific Rim Plaza on the hotel's waterfront side.

Past Continuous Tense



Past Continuous Tense



It was raining all morning

She was crying all night

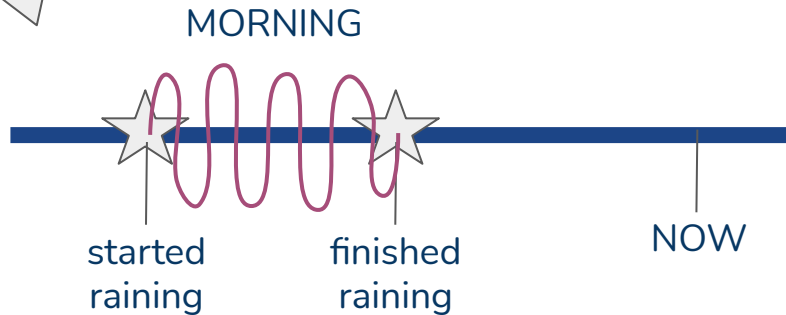
They were talking on the phone all afternoon

Past Continuous Tense

1

Long action

It was raining all morning



Past Continuous Tense



I was cooking whilst he was watching TV

She was walking but I was running

He was doing his homework when I arrived home

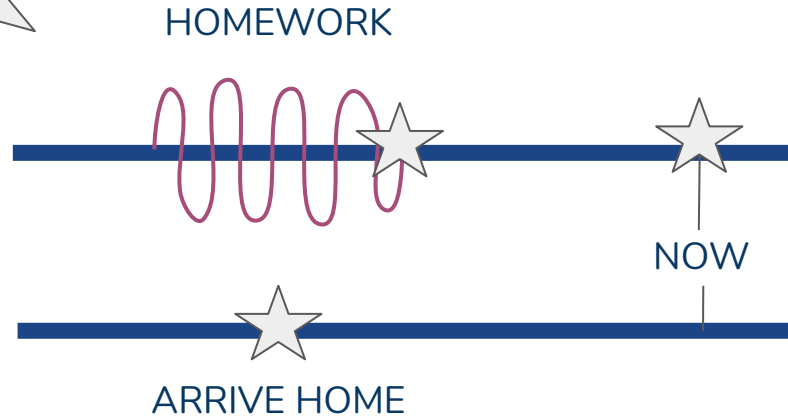
They were getting ready for bed when I got upstairs

Past Continuous Tense



2 actions

He was doing his homework when I arrived home



Past Continuous Tense



Before/after
structure

It was 7pm and I was having dinner

At 8am I was waking up

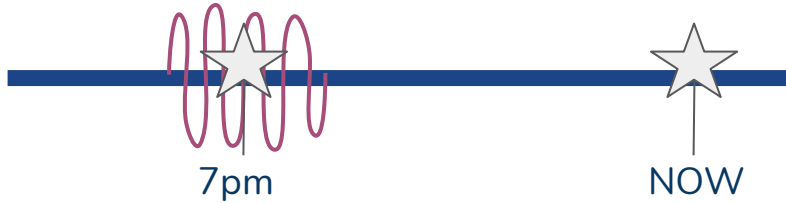
At 5pm he was finishing work

Past Continuous Tense



Before/after
structure

It was 7pm and I was having dinner



Past Continuous Tense



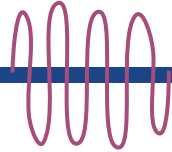
Setting the scene

It was raining outside, the trees were blowing in the wind, the wind was howling down the chimney and the house was shaking.

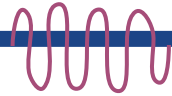
Past Continuous Tense

4

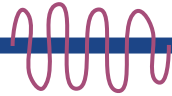
Setting the scene



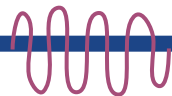
RAINING



TREES BLOWING



WIND HOWLING



HOUSE SHAKING



NOW

*It was raining
outside, the trees
were blowing in the
wind, the wind was
howling down the
chimney and the
house was shaking.*

Past Continuous Tense



Change and
growth

They were getting tall quickly

I was thinking about buying a new house

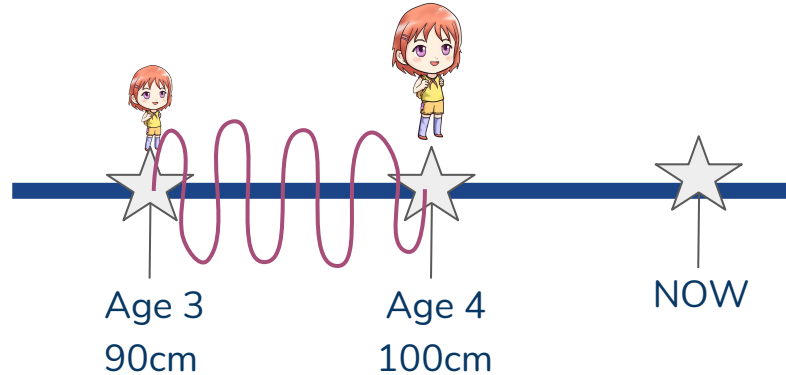
She was going to do her homework, but she changed her mind

Past Continuous Tense

5

Change and
growth

They were getting tall quickly



Past Continuous Tense



I was wondering if you'd like to go out with me?

She was wondering if she could call you?

They were wondering if you're interested in the job offer?

Past Continuous Tense

I	was	reading
you	were	reading
he	was	reading
she	was	reading
it	was	reading
we	were	reading
they	were	reading

to read



Past Continuous Tense

I	was	not	reading
you	were	not	reading
he	was	not	reading
she	was	not	reading
it	was	not	reading
we	were	not	reading
they	were	not	reading

to read



Past Continuous Tense

I	wasn't	reading
you	weren't	reading
he	wasn't	reading
she	wasn't	reading
it	wasn't	reading
we	weren't	reading
they	weren't	reading

to read



Past Continuous Tense

Who What Where When Why How much	was	I	reading?
	were	you	reading?
	was	he	reading?
	was	she	reading?
	was	it	reading?
	were	we	reading?
	were	they	reading?

to read



Past Continuous Tense

Were you watching the TV?

Yes	I	was
	you	were
	he	was
	she	was
	it	was
	we	were
	they	were

Past Continuous Tense

Were you watching the TV?

No	I	was not
	you	were not
	he	was not
	she	was not
	it	was not
	we	were not
	they	were not

Past Continuous Tense

Were you watching the TV?

No	I	wasn't
	you	weren't
	he	wasn't
	she	wasn't
	it	wasn't
	we	weren't
	they	weren't



While is placed next to the past continuous part of the sentence

While I was cooking, he was watching TV



It means “at the same time”

While I was cooking, he was watching TV



We can also flip both parts of the sentence
and it means exactly the same!

He was watching TV while he was cooking

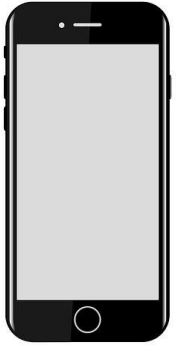


While is often replaced with “whilst”. They both have the same meaning.

He was watching TV whilst he was cooking



as



As is used in exactly the same way

As I was talking on my phone, it rang

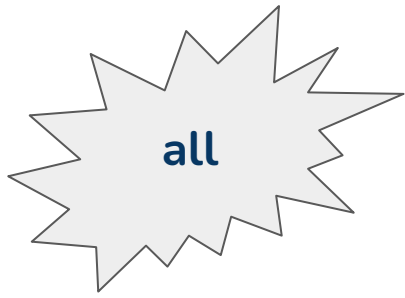


as



Again, the sentences can be flipped around
to say the same thing

My phone rang as I was talking



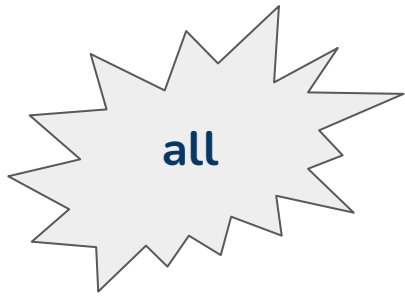
All must be followed by a time phrase

all night
 day
 morning



This time phrase can be used right at the beginning or right at the end of a phrase.

All night it was raining



This time phrase can be used right at the beginning or right at the end of a phrase.

It was raining all night



from ... to

From ... to ... is a two-part phrase that requires two time phrases or two locations.

from **A** to **B**



from ... to

from 2pm to 4pm

from 21st to 24th

from May to October

from 2000 to 2010



from ... to

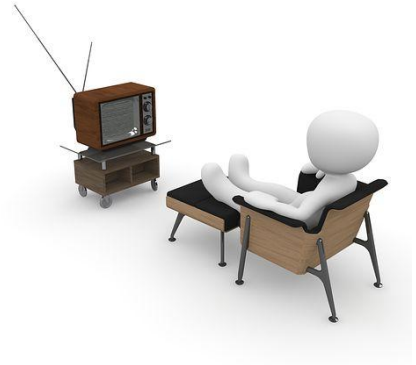


It can go right at the beginning of a past continuous sentence.

From 2pm to 4pm I was watching TV.



from ... to



It can also go right at the end of a past continuous sentence.

I was watching TV from 2pm to 4pm.



through

Through must always be followed by a
time phrase.

through the night
 the day
 October



through



It has the same meaning as “the duration of” and can be used at the beginning of a sentence.

Through October, I was working with ABC.



through



Or at the end of a sentence.

I was working with ABC through October.

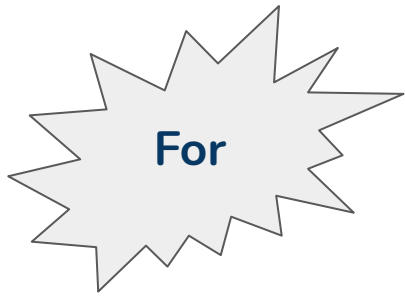


through



You may see this replaced with
“throughout”. They have the same meaning.

*I was working with ABC throughout
October.*



For must always be followed by a time phrase.

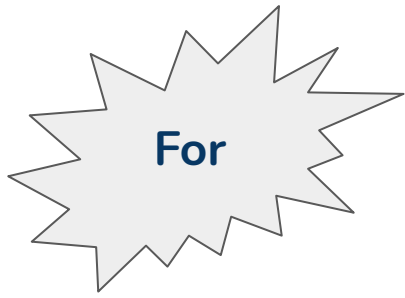
	2 weeks
for	3 months
	4 years



For

This time phrase must be a countable period of time (a number/length + noun).

	2 weeks
for	3 months
	4 years



It can be placed at the beginning of a sentence.

For a long time, I was reading that book.



For



Or at the end of a sentence.

I was reading that book for a long time.

Practice 1



Past Continuous

Look at the image for 10 seconds, then describe what was happening.

Past Continuous



Past Continuous



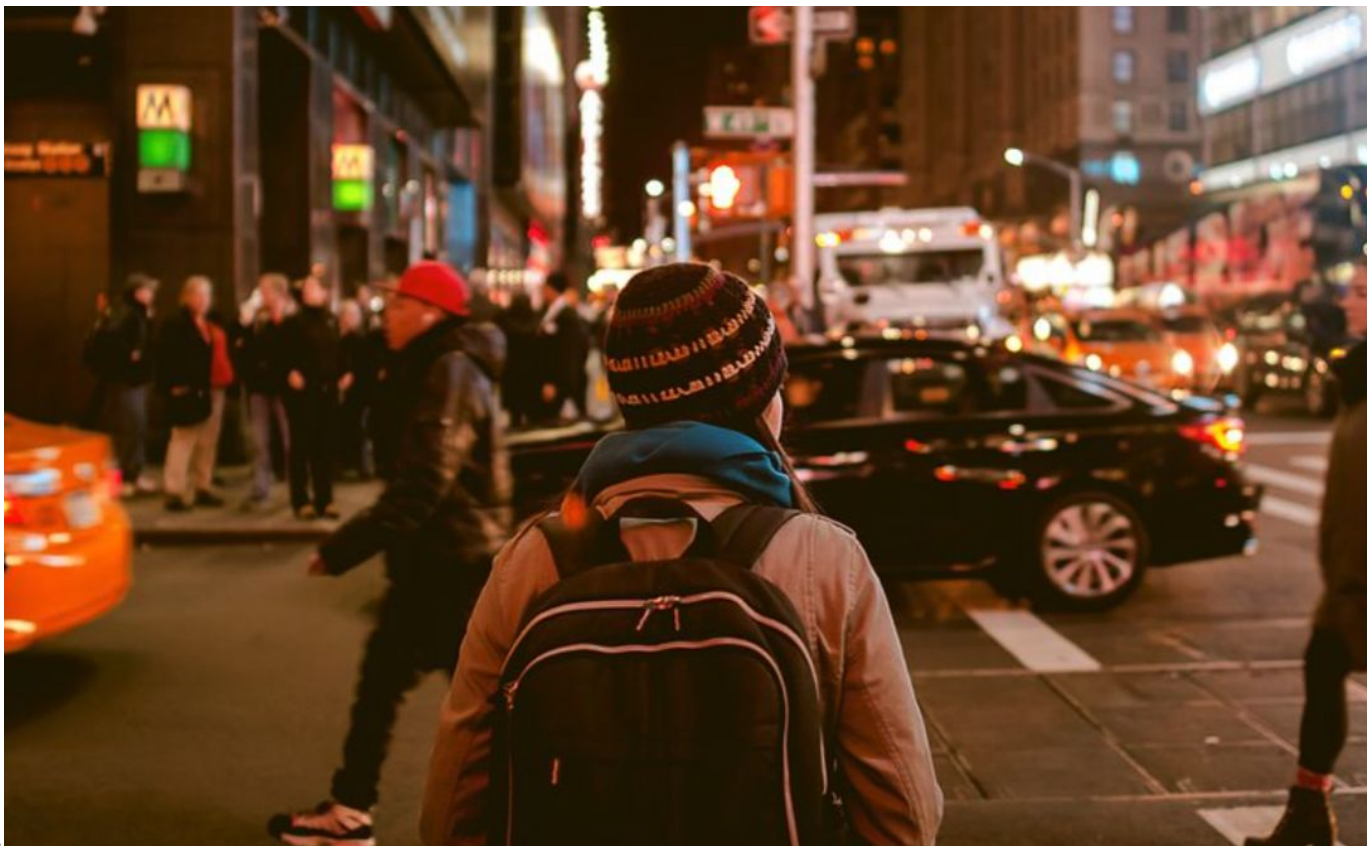
Past Continuous



Past Continuous



Past Continuous



Past Continuous



Practice 2



Past Continuous

Finish the sentences using a past continuous phrase.

Past Continuous

- 1) Once upon a time ...
- 2) The sun was shining ...
- 3) The car was driving very quickly ...
- 4) The man was shouting at me ...
- 5) The wind was howling ...
- 6) I was driving home late from work ...
- 7) They were sleeping in their beds ...

Past Continuous

8) She was walking into the supermarket ...

9) He was writing a book ...

10) The snow was falling ...

11) All the shop were closing ...

12) I was looking around ...

13) She was hiding in the cupboard ...

14) They were waiting at the bus stop ...

Past Continuous



It's conversation time!



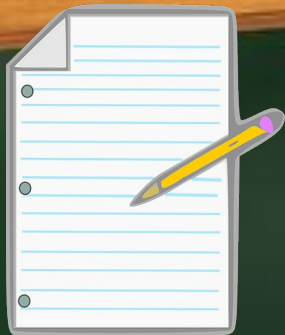
TO LEARN THE PAST
CONTINUOUS TENSE



REVIEW



Past Continuous Tense



HOMEWORK

COMPLETE PAST CONTINUOUS QUIZ

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/quizzes/past-continuous-quiz/>