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.

Virtually Fluent

BBC NEWS

Mr Allen described Mr Murphy as "growth-orientated seasoned business leader" and said he had been 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.

Resource: O'Connell. D. (2019). *Tesco boss Dave Lewis in shock departure.* Available: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-49903696. Last accessed 2nd October 2019.

Virtually FLUENT

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 event 1

past event 2

NOW

Past Continuous Tense

1
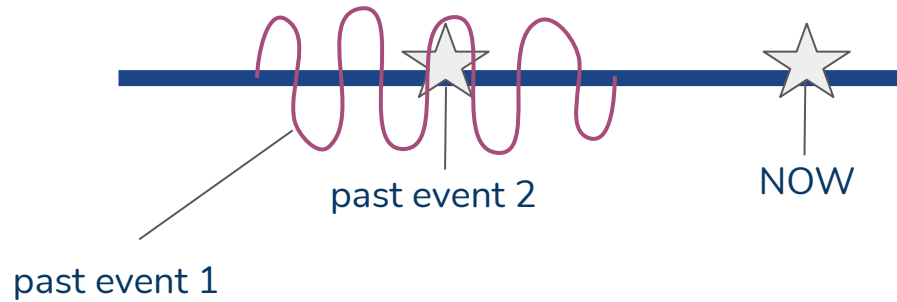
Long action

It was raining <u>all</u> morning

She was crying <u>all</u> night

They were talking on the phone all afternoon

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Past Continuous Tense

1

Long action

It was raining all morning

MORNING

started raining

finished raining

NOW

Virtually FLUENT
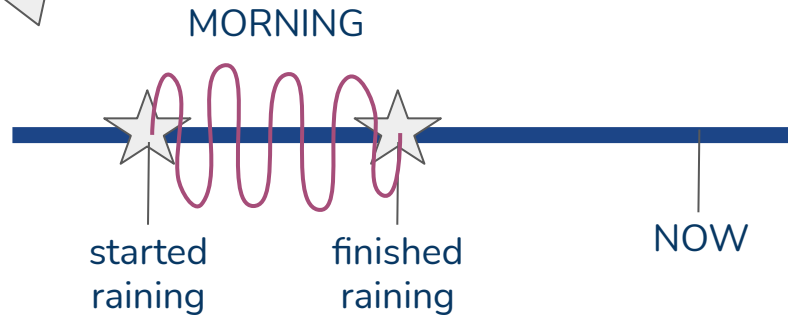
Past Continuous Tense

2 actions

I was cooking whilst he was watching TV

She was walking but I was running
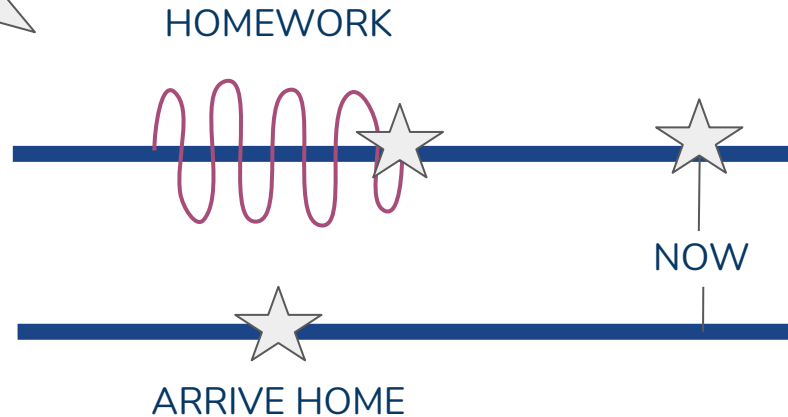
He was doing his homework when I arrived home

They were getting ready for bed when I got upstairs

Past Continuous Tense

2

2 actions

He was doing his homework when I arrived home

HOMEWORK

NOW

ARRIVE HOME

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Past Continuous Tense

3

Before/after structure

It was 7pm and I was having dinner

At 8am I was waking up

At 5pm he was finishing work

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Past Continuous Tense

3

Before/after structure

It was 7pm and I was having dinner

7pm   NOW
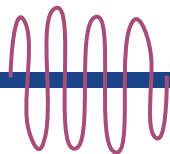
Virtually FLUENT

Past Continuous Tense

4

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.
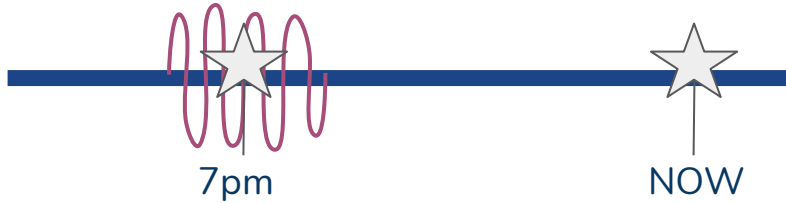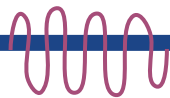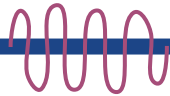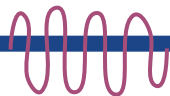
Past Continuous Tense

Setting the scene

RAINING

NOW

TREES BLOWING

WIND HOWLING

HOUSE SHAKING

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

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Past Continuous Tense

5

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

Virtually
FLUENT

Past Continuous Tense

5

Change and growth

They were getting tall slowly

Age 3
90cm

Age 4
100cm

NOW

Virtually
F L U E N T
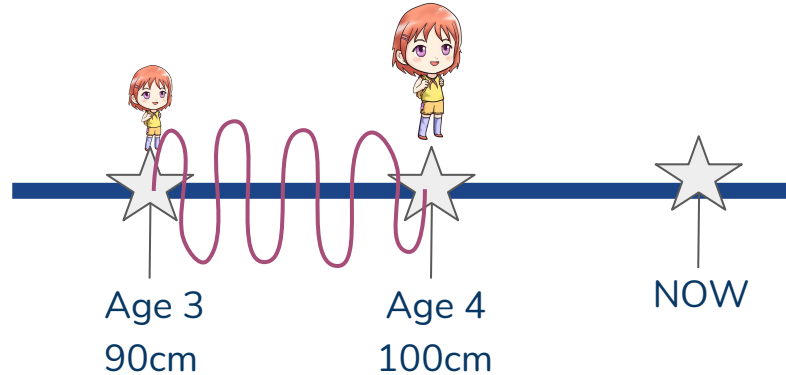
Past Continuous Tense

Wonder

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

Virtually
FLUENT

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

Virtually
F L U E N T

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

Virtually
FLUENT

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

Virtually
FLUENT

Past Continuous Tense

Were you watching the TV?

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

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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

Virtually FLUENT

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

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

While I was cooking, *he was watching TV*

while

It means "at the same time"

While I was cooking, *he was watching TV*

while

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

He was watching TV *while he was cooking*

while

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

He was watching TV *whilst* *he was cooking*

Virtually Fluent

as
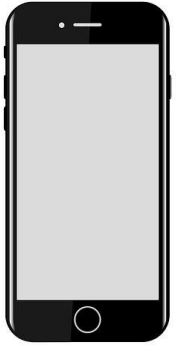
As is used in exactly the same way

As I was talking on my phone, *it rang*

as

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

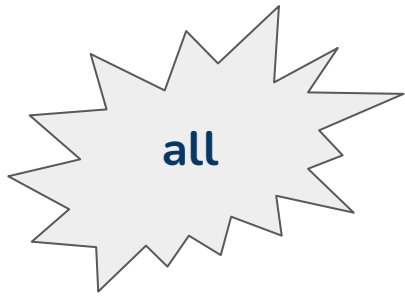*My phone rang* *as I was talking*

all
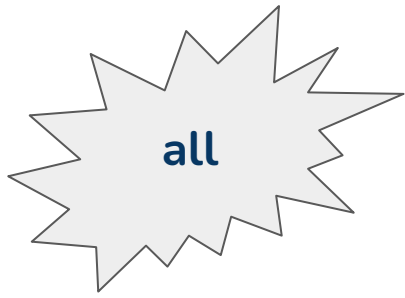
All must be followed by a time phrase

all

night
day
morning

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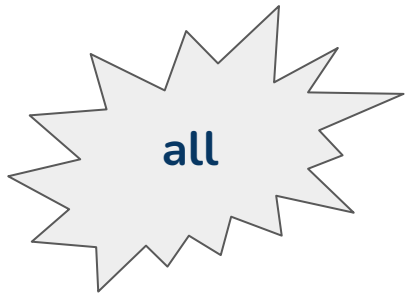
This time phrase can be used right at the beginning or right at the end of a phrase.

All night *it was raining*

all

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

*It was raining **all night***

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

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

from **2pm** to **4pm**

from **21st** to **24th**

from **May** to **October**

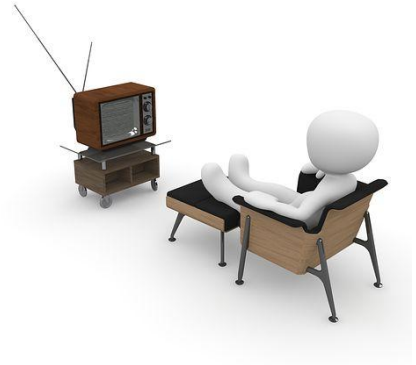from **2000** to **2010**

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.

Or at the end of a sentence.

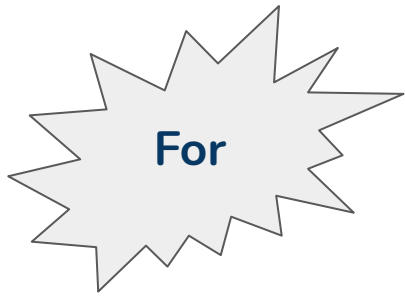*I was working with ABC **through** October.*

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

*I was working with ABC **throughout** October.*
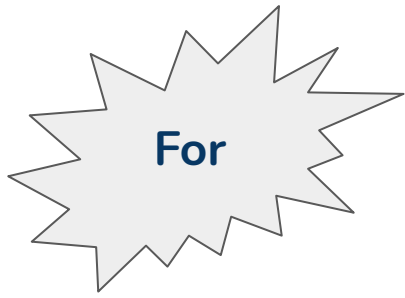
For

For must always be followed by a time phrase.

for
- 2 weeks
- 3 months
- 4 years

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For

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

for

2 weeks

3 months

4 years

For

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
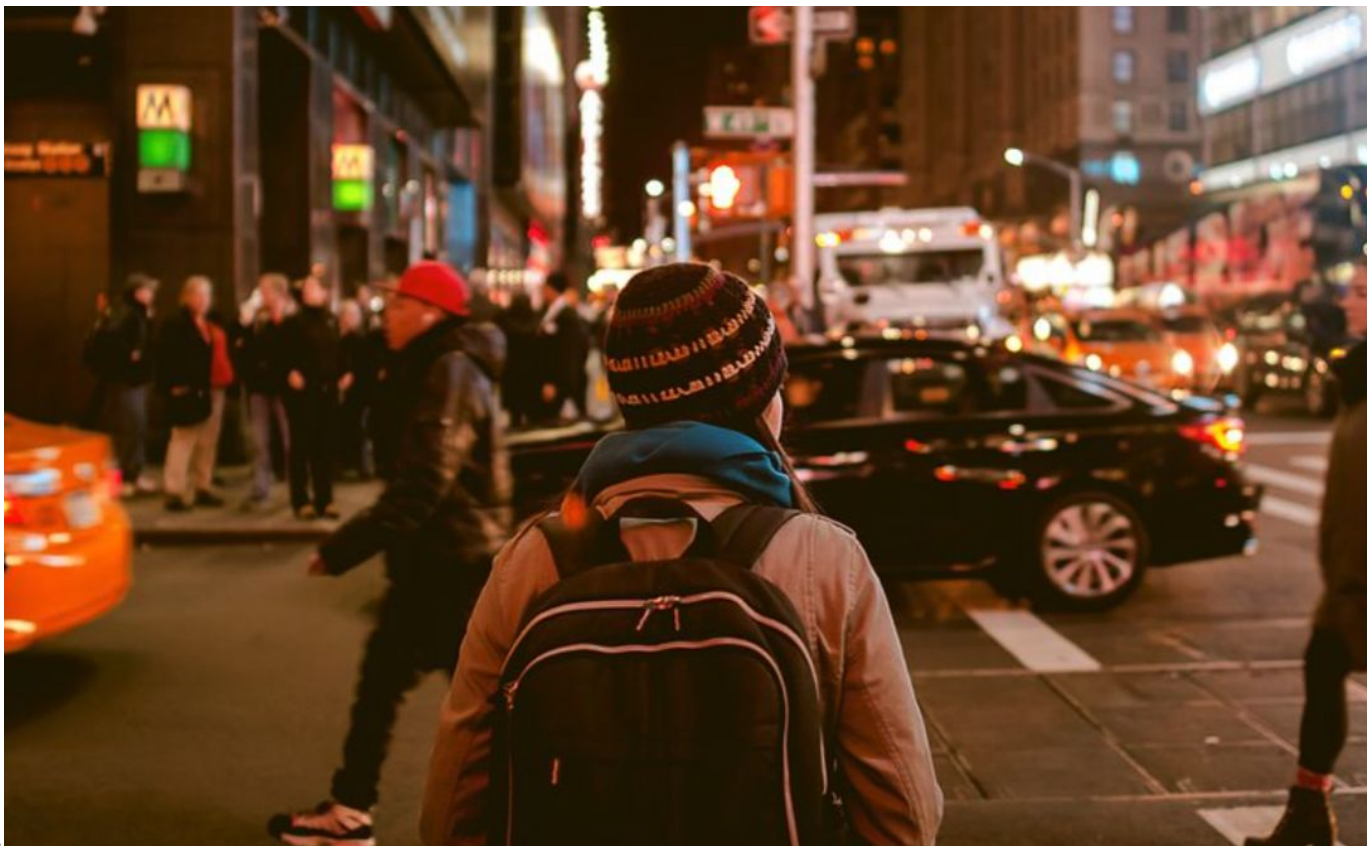
Past Continuous

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 ...

Virtually
F L U E N T

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 …
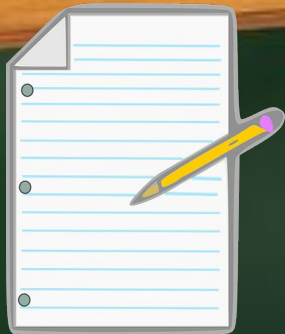
Past Continuous

It's conversation time!

To learn the past continuous tense

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REVIEW

Past Continuous Tense

Homework

Complete past continuous quiz

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