

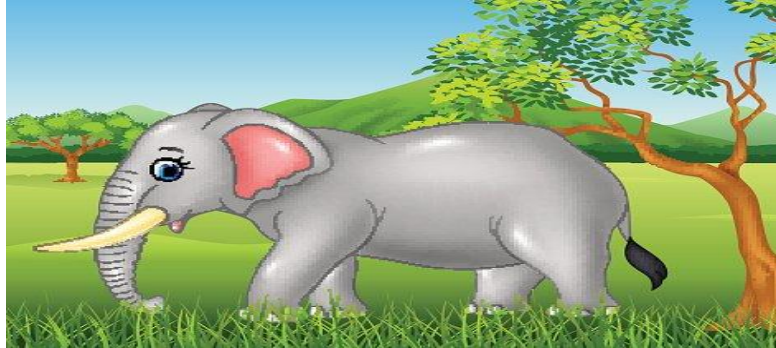
## Chapter- 9

# Past Continuous Tense

## STUDY NOTES

### At a glance:

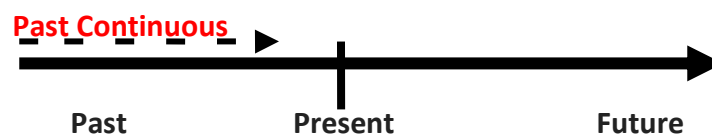
Read these lines



The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing** as the elephant came out of the jungle. The other animals **were relaxing** in the shade of the trees, but the elephant moved very quickly. She **was looking** for her baby, and she didn't notice the hunter who **was watching** her through his binoculars. When the shot rang out, she **was running** towards the river.

The words in red are verbs that talk about the actions that began in past and went on for some time. These words are said to be in the **Past Continuous tense**.

The **Past Continuous tense** is used to talk about actions that began in the past and continued for some time.



The structure of Past Continuous tense is:

**was / were + verb + -ing**

**Examples:**



Raj was travelling by train.



We were playing basketball after school.

The Past Continuous tense is used to:

- show an action that continued for some time in the past

**Examples:**



Mrs. Sharma **was teaching** in the class.



The children **were playing** in the park with the ball.

- describe an action in the past that was happening when another action took place

**Examples:**



Rina was washing the dishes when the phone rang.



John was reading a book while Mary was watching television.

**Answer key****1. Circle the verbs in the Past Continuous tense in the sentences below.**

- a) The boy was waiting in the hall.
- b) We were reading all night.
- c) Subhash was washing his clothes in the morning.
- d) I was sleeping when the visitors arrived.
- e) David and Meera were doing their homework in the evening.
- f) Javed was repairing the car the entire day.

**2. Read the sentences given below. In each sentence, identify the two actions that were taking place in the past.**

- a) They were watching the match when the lights went off.

Action 1: They were watching the match. Action 2: The lights went off.

- b) The alarm rang when he was trying to enter the building.

Action 1: The alarm rang. Action 2: He was trying to enter the building.

- c) I was playing till my parents came back home.

Action 1: I was playing. Action 2: My parents came back home.

- d) Irfan and Mita were writing until the teacher took the answer sheets away.

Action 1: Irfan and Mita were writing. Action 2: The teacher took the answer sheets away.

- e) We were running up and down the stairs when Tony suddenly fell down.

Action 1: We were running up and down the stairs. Action 2: Tony suddenly fell down.

**3. Underline the verbs in the Past Continuous tense in the sentences given below. Show how they are formed using the verb + ing structure.**

- a) We were climbing the tree to pick mangoes. were + climb + -ing
- b) Ravi was trying to solve the problem when an idea struck him. was + try + -ing
- c) Hetal was running very fast until she got tired. was + run + -ing
- d) Tushar and I were eating breakfast when all our friends visited us. were + eat + -ing
- e) Asha was sleeping. was + sleep + -ing

**4. Change the verbs given in the brackets to the Past Continuous tense to complete the sentences.**

- a) When I visited my friends, they were playing (play) carrom.
- b) The kids were running (run) around in the garden when it suddenly began to rain.
- c) I was practising (practise) the piano when Mom came home.
- d) The players were sitting (sit) in the dressing room before the match.
- e) While Aaron was working (work) in his room, his friends were swimming (swim) in the pool.

**5. Look at the jumbled sentences given below. Rearrange the sentences using the Past Continuous tense of the verbs.**

a)	badminton at the club/ Maria / play	Maria was playing badminton at the club.
b)	Anubhuti /English / study	Anubhuti was studying English.
c)	cook / Sneha / fried rice	Sneha was cooking fried rice.
d)	Arun and Asif / eat / lunch	Arun and Asif were eating lunch.
e)	Brijesh / a cake / have	Brijesh was having a cake.
f)	We / walk / home	We were walking home.

6. Read the sentences given below. Spot the errors in the use of the Past Continuous tense and correct them.

a) They was asking for more books from their teacher. were asking

b) He were buying a box of chocolates for his mother. was buying

c) Myra was sat outside the house when the rain started. was sitting

d) The dog were scratched its ears when it heard a sound. was scratching

e) Virat were looked outside the window. was looking

f) Joseph were working hard because he was afraid that he would not do well in the exams.

was working

