



English Grammar

The Present, Past and Future Continuous tenses



Continuous

- **Present continuous**
- **Past continuous**
- **Future continuous**

Present continuous

is composed of two parts—***the present tense of the verb to be (am; is ; are)***

+

the present participle of the main verb (V-ing).

be

+

V-ing



Present Continuous expresses the action which is happening at the moment of speech. E.g.

Every student is running.

Present Continuous

be + V-ing



□ **They are talking to each other.**



□ **The sun is shining.**



□ **I am playing a computer..**



□ **He is singing..**

Present Continuous

be + V-ing

has also the meaning of **futurity** when the action is planned beforehand.

e.g. Alex and Rose **are getting married** next month; they have invited all guests.

Past continuous

is composed of two parts :

*the past tense of the verb to be
(was / were)*

and

*the base of the main verb +ing
(V-ing).*

**was/
were**

V-ing

+

Past Continuous expresses the action which was happening at a specific time in the past. E.g.

**Every student was
running yesterday in
the afternoon.**



Past continuous

be + V-ing



□ They were talking to each other yesterday.



□ The sun was shining yesterday.



□ I was playing a computer yesterday.



□ He was singing yesterday.

Future continuous

is made up of two elements :

the simple future of the verb 'to be' –will be

+

the present participle of the verb-Ving.

Will be

+

V-ing

Future Continuous expresses the action which will be happening at a specific time in the future.

Every student will be running tomorrow in the afternoon.



Future continuous

will be + V-ing



□ They will be talking to each other tomorrow.



□ The sun will be shining tomorrow.



□ I will be playing a computer tomorrow.



□ He will be singing tomorrow.

The following verbs are not used in Continuous tenses

- The verbs that express feeling: **like, love, hate, want, need, prefer**
- The verbs that express mental activity: **know, realize, suppose, mean, understand, believe, remember, think (in the meaning of believe)**
- The verbs that express possession: **have, possess, obtain, belong, fit, contain, consist, seem, be**
- The verbs that express sense of perception: **see, hear, smell, taste**

Choose the correct tense for the following sentences:

1. I was studying all night for that history test.

- A. Present Continuous**
- B. Past Continuous**
- C. Future Continuous**

2. The doctor is examining the patient.

- A. Present Continuous**
- B. Past Continuous**
- C. Future Continuous**

3. I will be going on vacation next week

- A. Present Continuous**
- B. Past Continuous**
- C. Future Continuous**

Choose the correct tense for the following sentences:

4. My sister is watching TV right now

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

5. I will be working until 5 p.m. tomorrow

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

6. At midnight, we were still driving through the desert

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

Choose the correct tense for the following sentences:

7. He was constantly talking

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

8. Tonight, we will be eating dinner at 8:00 p.m.

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

9. The students are reading their books.

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

Choose the correct tense for the following sentences:

10. He will be doing homework at the library tonight.

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

11. Are you still reading the book?

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

12. Will you be waiting for her when the plane arrives?

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

Choose the correct tense for the following sentences:

13. Were you listening to me?

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

14. Are you still going to be walking home after school?

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous

15. What are you doing?

- A. Present Continuous
- B. Past Continuous
- C. Future Continuous