## The Past Continuous Tense

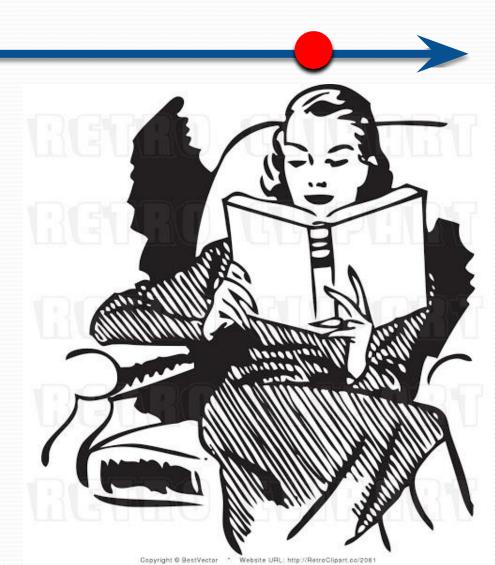
Form, meaning, use

## Claire was reading a book

present

8 p.m. yesterday

At 8 p.m. yesterday Claire was reading a book



Jim was watching TV

present

I called Jim

When I called Jim, he was watching TV



## Form

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was/were + V_{ing}: \\ She \ was \ watching \ the \ news \\
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 $was/were + V_{ing}:$  They were not having dinner

was/were + V<sub>ing</sub>?:
Were you talking to a friend?

## Use

- 1. Для выражения длительного действия, начавшегося до определенного момента в прошлом и всё ещё совершавшегося в этот момент. Момент совершения может быть указан:
- обозначениями времени: at five o'clock, at noon, at midnight, at that moment, ...:

He was writing a letter at five o'clock yesterday. It was raining at noon.

What was he doing at the moment?

другим прошедшим действием, выраженным глаголом в Past Indefinite:

He was writing a letter when I entered the room. It was raining when I left the house. As I was coming here I met your brother.

Ho! Если действие законченное/однократное, используется Past Indefinite:

He **finished** his work at five o'clock –

Он закончил работу в пять часов.

He was finishing his work at five o'clock –

Он заканчивал работу в пять часов.

2. Для описания обстановки, на фоне которой совершились какие-то действия:

It was evening. My wife was reading a book, and I was writing a letter. Suddenly the door opened, and my brother came in.

The rainforest was full of sounds. Birds were calling the trees and thousands of insects were buzzing and humming.

3. Наряду с Past Indefinite с такими обозначениями времени как all day long, all day yesterday, all the time, the whole evening, from five till eight.

Past Continuous – процесс

Past Indefinite – факт совершения действия

I was reading all day yesterday

I read all day yesterday

—Я читал вчера весь день

Ho! Если имеется несколько действий, совершаемых одно за другим = только Past Indefinite:

I **came** home early, rested from five till six, and then **worked** the whole evening.

- 4. Если два длительных действия совершаются одновременно, оба они выражаются при помощи либо Past Continuous, либо Past Indefinite.
  - Past Continuous процесс
  - Past Indefinite факт совершения действия
  - While he was having his breakfast, I was reading the newspaper
  - While he **had** his breakfast, I **read** the newspaper
  - While I was doing my homework, he was resting
  - While I did my homework, he rested.

- 1. I (to go) to the cinema yesterday.
- 2. I (to go) to the cinema at 4 o'clock yesterday.
- 3. I (to go) to the cinema when you met me.
- 4. I (to do) my homework the whole evening yesterday.
- 5. I (to do) my homework when mother came home.
- 6. I (to do) my homework yesterday.
- 7. I (to do) my homework from 5 till 8 yesterday.

- 8. I (to do) my homework at 6 o'clock yesterday.
- 9. I (not to play) the piano yesterday. (I to write) a letter to my friend.
- 10. I (not to play) the piano at 4 o'clock yesterday. I (to read) a book.
- 11. He (not to sleep) when his father came home. He (to do) his homework.
- 12. When I (to go) to school the day before yesterday, I met Mike and Pete. They (to talk) and (to laugh).

- They told me a funny story. Soon I (to laugh) too. I still to laugh when we came to school. After school I (to tell) this story at home. My father and mother (to like) it very much.
- 13. I (to play) computer games yesterday.
- 14. I (to play) computer games at 5 o'clock yesterday.
- 15. He (to play) computer games from two till three yesterday.
- 16. We (to play) computer games the whole evening yesterday.

- 17. My brother (not to play) tennis yesterday.
  - He (to play tennis) the day before yesterday.
- 18. My sister (not to play) the piano at 4 o'clock yesterday. She (to play) the piano the whole evening.
- 19. When I came into kitchen, mother (to cook).
- 20. She (to cook) the whole day yesterday.