

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

+

was/were + V_{ing}:

She was watching the news

-

was/were + V_{ing}:

They were not having dinner

?

was/were + V_{ing}?:

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.

Но! 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

Но! 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.