



# Past Continuous

The past continuous verb tense, sometimes called the past progressive, is the present participle form of a verb used with the past tense form of *to be*.

**Past tense:** I *sang*.

**Past continuous tense:** I *was singing*.

The past continuous tense is used for showing an action that was ongoing or happening continually in the past. It sometimes shows an interruption in action.

**Example 1:** The cats *were sleeping* on the bed.

**Example 2:** She *was sweeping* the porch when the storm came in.

**Part I:** Circle the past continuous verb tense in each of the following sentences.

1. I was planting some seeds in the garden when a wasp stung me.
2. We were waiting at the mall for a ride home.
3. When the doorbell rang, his mother was talking on the phone.
4. The settlers were watching the horizon for signs of the buffalo.
5. While you were having fun, I finished the chores.

**Part II:** Fill in the blank with the past continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) the groceries when he tripped and fell.
2. Gabe \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the piano for his teacher.
3. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ (blow) the clouds across the sky.
4. Mrs. Carrnes \_\_\_\_\_ (nap) in her chair when the police arrived.
5. As the guests \_\_\_\_\_, (leave) Mr. Vallez shook their hands.


**Verb  
Tenses:**

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5. While you **were having** fun, I finished the chores.

**Part II:** Fill in the blank with the past continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ **was carrying** \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) the groceries when he tripped and fell.
2. Gabe \_\_\_\_\_ **was playing** \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the piano for his teacher.
3. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ **was blowing** \_\_\_\_\_ (blow) the clouds across the sky.
4. Mrs. Carrnes \_\_\_\_\_ **was napping** \_\_\_\_\_ (nap) in her chair when the police arrived.
5. As the guests \_\_\_\_\_ **were leaving** \_\_\_\_\_, (leave) Mr. Vallez shook their hands.