

THE PAST CONTINUOUS

Two main uses:

- a) To express durative actions in the past.
- c) To express actions at a particular moment in the past.

Form:

Subject + **was /were + gerund ...**

THE PAST CONTINUOUS

Affirmative form: **[to eat]**

I	was eating	we	were eating
you	were eating	you	were eating
he	was eating		
she	was eating	they	were eating
it	was eating		

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Examples:

The dog **was eating** its food.

In 2002 I **was living** in London.

We **were doing** our homework.

She **was reading** a magazine.

They **were cleaning** their apartment.

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Negative form:

wasn't (was not)
weren't (were not) } + gerund

Examples:

He **wasn't dancing** at the party.

They **weren't speaking** French.

I **wasn't waiting** for you.

We **weren't fighting**.

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Questions:

was } + subject + **gerund ...?**
were }

Examples:

Were you **studying** math?
What **were** you **doing**?
Who **was** she **talking** to?

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Short answers:

Was he playing the piano?

Yes, he was.

No, he wasn't.

Were they sleeping?

Yes, they were.

No, they weren't.

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ACTIONS AT A PARTICULAR MOMENT
IN THE PAST:

She **was working** in the morning.

At seven o'clock I **was sleeping**.

Yesterday evening they **were playing** cards.

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Vocabulary: THE CITY

road sign	advertisement	skyscraper
mailbox	bus shelter	bridge
sidewalk	building	river
corner	crosswalk	traffic light
trash can	lamppost	bench
flag	pedestrian	square

Examples:

We were visiting that huge skyscraper.

Andy and Susan were sitting on a bench.

Were you walking near the bridge?



Elegir la oración correcta en cada caso.

- 1 a. They were swimming in the evening.
b. They were swimming in the evening.
c. They were swimming in the evening.
- 2 a. Ryan and Marcus weren't sweeping their apartment.
b. Ryan and Marcus weren't sweeping their apartment.
c. Ryan and Marcus weren't sweeping their apartment.
- 3 a. She wasn't doing her homework but I was.
b. She wasn't doing her homework but I wasn't.
c. She was doing her homework but I was.
- 4 a. Was it raining hard?
b. Was it raining hard?
c. Was it raining hardly?
- 5 a. We were writting an article for the local newspaper.
b. We weren't writting an article in the local newspaper.
c. We weren't writing an article for the local newspaper.



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EJERCICIOS



Completar los espacios con los tiempos verbales adecuados.

6 You some exercises
but I only one.

- a. weren't correcting, wasn't correcting
- b. were correcting, corrected
- c. were correcting, didn't correcting

7 She It real.

- a. wasn't dreaming, were
- b. weren't dreaming, was
- c. wasn't dreaming, was

8 I my eyes and it.

- a. was opening, saw
- b. opened, was seeing
- c. opened, saw

9 We anything but
the dog

- a. couldn't hear, was barking
- b. could hear, was barking
- c. could hear, wasn't barking

10 They to me but
they a word.

- a. weren't listening,
didn't understand
- b. were listening,
wasn't understanding
- c. were listening,
didn't understand

Soluciones: 1.- b) They were swimming in the evening. 2.- a) Ryan and Marcus weren't sweeping their apartment. 3.- a) She wasn't doing her homework but I was. 4.- a) Was it raining hard? 5.- c) We weren't writing an article for the local newspaper. 6.- b) were correcting, corrected 7.- c) wasn't dreaming, was 8.- c) opened, saw 9.- a) couldn't hear, was barking 10.- c) were listening, didn't understand