PRATIK DERS

Past Continuous

Ders kategorisi: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

> Form was or were plus verb-ing for actions in progress in the past, background scenes, interruptions and simultaneous events. Covers when versus while, the -ing spelling rules and the usual learner mistakes.

Past Continuous

The past continuous describes an action that was **in progress** at a moment in the past. It is formed with **was / were + verb-ing**. Its most typical job is to set the scene: it provides the background against which shorter, completed events happen.

Learning objectives

- Form the past continuous for all subjects.
- Use it for background, interruptions and simultaneous actions.
- Use **when** and **while** correctly.
- Apply the **-ing** spelling rules.

Meaning and usage

Use	Example
Action in progress at a past moment	*At eight o'clock I **was having** dinner.*
Background to a story	*The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing**.*
An interrupted action	*I **was reading** when the phone rang.*
Two simultaneous actions	*She **was cooking** while he **was working**.*
Temporary past situation	*That summer I **was living** with my grandparents.*
Repeated irritating action	*He **was always losing** his phone.*

The form

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Question
I / he / she / it	was working	wasn't working	Was he working?
you / we / they	were working	weren't working	Were they working?

Short answers: *Yes, I **was**. / No, they **weren't**.* No *did* is used, because *be* is the auxiliary.

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Spelling rules for -ing

Ending	Rule	Examples
most verbs	add **-ing**	*watch → watching*
silent -e	drop the **e**	*write → writing; drive → driving*
one vowel + one consonant, stressed	double the consonant	*sit → sitting; run → running*
-ie	ie → **y**	*lie → lying*

When and while

Word	Usually followed by	Example
while	the longer action (continuous)	***While** I was cooking, the phone rang.*
when	the shorter action (past simple)	*I was cooking **when** the phone rang.*
as	simultaneous actions	***As** we were leaving, it started to rain.*

When the clause comes first, it is followed by a comma: *While I was cooking**,** the phone rang.*

Stative verbs

As in the present, stative verbs avoid the continuous. Use the past simple instead: *I **knew** the answer*, not *I was knowing*.

A comparison with the past simple

Past continuous	Past simple
action in progress, unfinished	complete action
I was watching TV at nine.	*I watched TV at nine.*
background	main event
It was raining.	*It rained for two hours.*

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
I was read a book.	**I was reading a book.**	the *-ing* form is required
Did you were sleeping?	**Were you sleeping?**	no *did* with *be*
You was working.	**You were working.**	*you* takes *were*
While I cooked, the phone was ringing.	**While I was cooking, the phone rang.**	the longer action takes the continuous
I was knowing him.	**I knew him.**	stative verb

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Mistake	Correct	Why
He was writting.	**He was writing.**	drop the *e*, no doubling

Learning tips

1. Picture a film: the past continuous is the scenery, the past simple is the action.
2. Remember the pairing: *while* + continuous, *when* + simple.
3. Describe what you were doing at three fixed times yesterday. It produces the tense naturally.

Summary checklist

- Is it **was/were + -ing**?
- Is *was* with singular and *were* with plural and *you*?
- Did I avoid *did*?
- Is the verb dynamic, not stative?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Kjo kohë ndërtohet me **was** ose **were** plus foljen me mbaresën **-ing**. Folja ndihmëse është *be*, prandaj pyetja bëhet me përmbysje dhe mohimi me *not*; *did* nuk përdoret kurrë.

Ajo tregon një veprim **në zhvillim** në një çast të së shkuarës. Përdorimet kryesore janë katër: veprim që po ndodhte në një orë të caktuar; sfond i një rrëfimi; veprim i gjatë i ndërprerë nga një veprim i shkurtër; dhe dy veprime që zhvilloheshin njëkohësisht.

Lidhëzat **when** dhe **while** ndajnë punën midis tyre: *while* shoqëron zakonisht veprimin e gjatë në formën e vazhduar, kurse *when* shoqëron veprimin e shkurtër në kohën e shkuar të thjeshtë.

Rregullat e drejtshkrimit të **-ing** janë të njëjta si te koha e tashme e vazhduar. Foljet e gjendjes nuk e marrin këtë formë.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Ekuivalenti më i afërt në gjuhën shqipe është **e pakryera**: *lexoja, punoja, flisja*. Kur theksohet vetë çasti, shqipja shton edhe pjesëzën **po**: *po lexoja*.

Anglisht	Shqip
At eight I was having dinner.	Në orën tetë **po haja** darkë.
The sun was shining.	Dielli **shkëlqente**.
I was reading when the phone rang.	**Po lexoja** kur ra telefoni.
She was cooking while he was working.	Ajo **gatuante** ndërsa ai **punonte**.
He was always losing his keys.	Ai **i humbte gjithmonë** çelësat.

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

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- **Forma.** Anglishtja e ndërton me dy fjalë (*was reading*); shqipja me një të vetme (*lexoja*), të cilës mund t'i shtohet *po*.
- **Detyrueshmëria.** Në anglisht forma e vazhduar është e detyrueshme për veprimin sfond. Shqipja e lejon të pakryerën edhe pa *po*, prandaj folësit e shqipes shpesh përdorin gabimisht të shkuarën e thjeshtë angleze.
- **Zakoni.** Shqipja e shpreh zakonin e së shkuarës me të pakryerën: *Çdo ditë shkoja në shkollë.* Anglishtja këtu **nuk** përdor formën e vazhduar, por *I went* ose *I used to go*.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
I was read a book.	**I was reading a book.**	kërkohet forma me *-ing*
Did you were sleeping?	**Were you sleeping?**	ndihmësja është *be*
You was working.	**You were working.**	*you* merr *were*
I was going there every day.	**I went there every day.**	zakoni nuk merr formën e vazhduar
I was knowing him.	**I knew him.**	folje gjendjeje

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