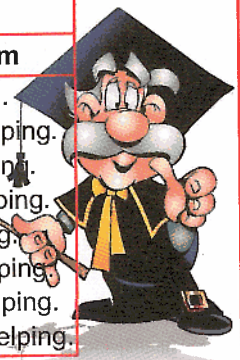


# Past Continuous - Was going to - Used to - Be/Get used to

**Past Continuous** was/were + verb -ing

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative	
		Long form	Short form
I was helping.	Was I helping?	I was not helping.	I wasn't helping.
You were helping.	Were you helping?	You were not helping.	You weren't helping.
He was helping.	Was he helping?	He was not helping.	He wasn't helping.
She was helping.	Was she helping?	She was not helping.	She wasn't helping.
It was helping.	Was it helping?	It was not helping.	It wasn't helping.
We were helping.	Were we helping?	We were not helping.	We weren't helping.
You were helping.	Were you helping?	You were not helping.	You weren't helping.
They were helping.	Were they helping?	They were not helping.	They weren't helping.



Negative - Interrogative
Wasn't I helping?
Weren't you helping? etc.

Time words used with the Past Continuous:
while, when, as

Time expressions
all yesterday morning, all day long, at this time yesterday

1. Complete the sentences. Use the **past continuous** of the verbs in brackets.

- Mrs Smith was driving. (drive) to home when the storm started.
- I ..... (watch) a DVD on my computer when it stopped working
- We ..... (travel) on the bus when we saw the new shops.
- What ..... (you do) when the phone rang?
- She ..... (shop) when she lost her purse.
- ..... (you read) a book when your headache started?
- I ..... (walk) outside when it started to rain.
- ..... (you play) football when you hurt your leg?

2. Read the sentences. Tick the action that started first.

- I was watching television when the lights went off.  
I was watching television.   
The lights went off.
- It was raining when I went out.  
It was raining.   
I went out.
- We were walking through the town when I saw the new shop.  
I saw the new shop.   
We were walking through town.
- Mum was shopping when she met an old friend.  
Mum was shopping.   
She met her old friend.

3. Yesterday at 6 pm your family were doing different things. Write positive sentences in **past continuous**.

- My mother / read / a novel  
My mother was reading a novel.
- My father / watch / a movie  
.....
- My elder sister / write / in her diary  
.....
- My two brothers / listen / to the radio  
.....
- My little sister and I / not / watch / a movie  
.....
- We / talk / about school  
.....

4. Put the verbs into the correct form (**past continuous**).

- When I phoned my friends, they were playing chess. (play)
- Yesterday at six I ..... (prepare) dinner.
- The kids ..... (play) in the garden when it suddenly began to rain.
- I ..... (practice) the guitar when my father came home.
- We ..... (not/cycle) all yesterday afternoon.
- While Alan ..... (work) in his room, his friends ..... (swim) in the pool.
- I tried to tell them the truth but they ..... (not /listen).

**Past Continuous versus Past Simple**

**Past Continuous** is used:

- for an action that was happening at a stated time in the past.



At 8 o'clock last night she **was watching** TV.

- for two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past (**simultaneous actions**).



At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon Ben **was doing** his homework while his dad **was setting** the dinner table.

- for a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it. We use **Past Continuous** for the interrupted action and **Past Simple** for the action which interrupts it.



Linda **was feeding** the baby when the phone **rang**.

- to describe the background to the events in a story.



We **were walking** in the woods. It **was raining** hard.

**Past Simple** is used:

- for an action completed at a stated time in the past.



He **finished** his homework at 7 o'clock.

- for actions which happened one after another (**sequence of actions**).



He **slipped, fell over** and **hurt** his ankle.

- with non-continuous verbs: appear (=seem), believe, belong, cost, feel, forget, hate, have (=possess), know, like, love, mean, need, prefer, realise, remember, see, seem, smell, sound, suppose, taste, think, understand, want, etc.



Sylvia **saw** Alex at the party yesterday.

- for people who are no longer alive.

Shakespeare **wrote** a lot of plays. (Shakespeare **is** dead. He **won't** write any more.)

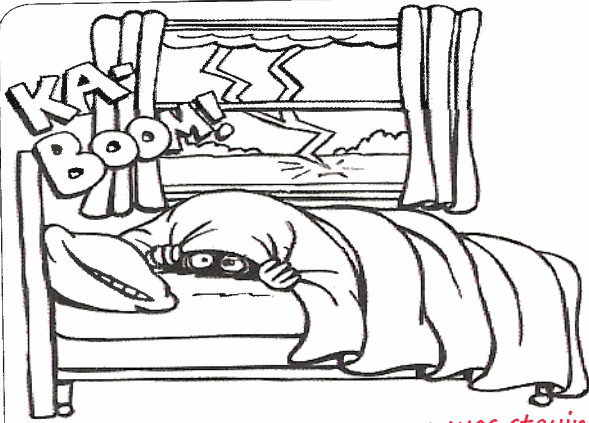
**5. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past continuous.**

My friend, Jill and I <sup>1</sup> were walking (walk) home from school last week when we <sup>2</sup> ..... (see) a little boy who <sup>3</sup> ..... (cry). He <sup>4</sup> ..... (be) lost and he <sup>5</sup> ..... (look) for someone to help him. Jill and I <sup>6</sup> ..... (walk) him back to our school and the headmaster <sup>7</sup> ..... (call) his parents to pick him up. His mother and father <sup>8</sup> ..... (be) very happy and <sup>9</sup> ..... (thank) us for our help.

**6. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past continuous.**

1 I was painting (paint) a picture when my mobile rang (ring).  
 2 George ..... (use) a hammer when he ..... (hit) his hand.  
 3 Penny ..... (help) us when Mum ..... (come) in.  
 4 Mr and Mrs Feathers ..... (get) ready to go out when their son ..... (call).  
 5 We ..... (walk) to school when we ..... (see) her.  
 6 I ..... (watch) TV when Mum and Dad ..... (come) home.  
 7 They ..... (eat) breakfast when I ..... (arrive).

7. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past continuous.



It was a dark and stormy night. I <sup>1</sup> *was staying* (stay) with my grandparents all week because my parents were away on a business trip. Grandma and Grandpa <sup>2</sup> ..... (be) both fast asleep but I was still awake. I <sup>3</sup> ..... (decide) to get a glass of milk from the kitchen. As I <sup>4</sup> ..... (go) down the stairs, I <sup>5</sup> ..... (hear) the sound of glass breaking. It was loud enough to wake even my grandparents. We all <sup>6</sup> ..... (run) into the living room. To our surprise, there was a huge tree branch on the sofa and a lot of rain <sup>7</sup> ..... (come) in through the broken window.

Was / Were going to

Was going to is used to express fixed arrangements in the past, unfulfilled plans or an action which someone intended to do in the past but didn't do.

He got up early. He *was going to* catch the 6 o'clock train. (fixed arrangement in the past)



She *was going to* travel around Europe but she didn't because she fell ill. (unfulfilled plan)



He *was going to* buy a new car but then he repaired her old one. (He intended to buy a car but he didn't)

8. Match the sentences.

- 1 I was going to sell my car
- 2 I was going to ring you yesterday evening
- 3 I was going to withdraw some money
- 4 I was going to quit my job
- 5 I was going to buy a new hi-tech watch
- 6 I was going to visit my aunt in New Zealand
- 7 I was going to take a bus to work for a change
- 8 I was going to watch the late movie last night
- 9 I was going to learn to play piano last year
- 10 I was going to speak to Angelo in Italian

- a but then I remembered he speaks English well.
- b but I lost my bank card.
- c ~~but no one wanted to buy it.~~
- d but then I realised it was too difficult.
- e but then there was a strike.
- f but then she decided to move to Britain.
- g but then I saw the price of it!!
- h but I didn't have any coins.
- i but then I heard about the coming recession!
- j but then I fell asleep on the sofa.

- |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |    |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | c | 3 |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | 9  |  |
| 2 |   | 4 |  | 6 |  | 8 |  | 10 |  |

9. Use was going to or were going to and the correct past tense verb for each sentence

- 1 A: Did you take out the trash?  
B: I *was going to*, but then the phone *ran*. (ring)
- 2 A: Is Dave coming to our party?  
B: He ....., but he ..... a babysitter for his kids. (can't find)
- 3 A: Are you making dinner tonight?  
B: I ..... until the power ..... out. (go)
- 4 A: Is your daughter going to college?  
B: She ....., but she ..... to take a year off and travel first. (decide)
- 5 A: Is the teacher going to stay after class?  
B: He ....., but he ..... out he had a meeting to go to later. (find)
- 6 A: Are you going to buy a new computer?  
B: Well, I ..... buy a new iMac until I ..... my job. (lose)

10. Use the **past continuous** or the **past simple** and the phrases to label the pictures.

- ~~action in the middle of happening~~ • sequence of actions • interrupted action • simultaneous actions • completed action • people who are no longer alive

1 *action in the middle of happening* .....



(he sleep / at 11 o'clock / yesterday evening)  
*He was sleeping at* .....

*11 o'clock yesterday evening.* .....

2 .....



(wash up / feed the dog / an hour ago) .....

3 .....



(last night / Mrs Smith knit / her son watch TV) .....

4 .....



(he sunbathe / it start to rain) .....

5 .....



(Gustave Eiffel / build / the Eiffel Tower) .....

6 .....



(Claire / have first birthday / 2 days ago) .....

11. Put the verbs in brackets into the **past simple** or the **past continuous**.



Heath Ledger <sup>1</sup>.....*was*..... (be) a very talented Australian actor who <sup>2</sup>..... (try) different kinds of roles. One of the last films he <sup>3</sup>..... (take) part in was The Dark Knight, where he <sup>4</sup>..... (play) the evil Joker. Sadly, he <sup>5</sup>..... (die) on January 22nd, 2008 at the age of 28.



It <sup>1</sup>..... (happen) at 8 o'clock last night. John and his wife, Jane, <sup>2</sup>..... (sit) in their living room. They <sup>3</sup>..... (watch) TV while their daughter <sup>4</sup>..... (play) with her toys. Suddenly, the room <sup>5</sup>..... (start) to shake and two vases <sup>6</sup>..... (fall) to the ground.

12. Put the verbs in brackets into the **past simple** or the **past continuous**.

1 A: I .....*was walking*..... (walk) home yesterday when I ..... (see) Jennifer.

B: Is she OK? I haven't seen her for such a long time.

2 A: What ..... (happen) to your leg?

B: I ..... (break) it while I ..... (ski).

3 A: I ..... (call) you yesterday morning but you ..... (not/be) at home.

B: Yes. I ..... (walk) my dog.

**Used to - Be/Get Used to**

**Used to** is used to talk about past habits. It has the same form in all persons, singular and plural. It forms its negative and interrogative form with **did**.

*I **used to** cry when I was a baby.  
I **didn't use to** sleep late.  
**Did you use to** sleep late?*

**Be/Get used to** is used to talk about habitual actions and means 'be/get accustomed to', 'be in the habit of'.

*I'm **not used to** getting up early.  
They **are used to** cold weather.  
You'll **get used to** her when you get to know her better.*

**13. Fill in: used to or didn't use to.**

When I was young, I <sup>1</sup> *used* .....  
..... *to* ..... go out in the evenings.  
I <sup>2</sup> ..... stay  
at home. My mum <sup>3</sup> .....  
invite my friend Sally and her  
mum over, so Sally and I could  
play. Now that I'm older, my parents  
let me go out. I <sup>4</sup> ..... have many friends but  
now I do.



**14. Underline the correct item.**

- Grandma **didn't use to** / **used to** have a mobile phone but she does now.
- At 9:00 am next Monday, I **will fly** / **will be flying** to Amsterdam.
- Sophia **did** / **was going to do** her essay but she changed her mind.
- They **used to** / **are used to** hot weather.
- Johan **has painted** / **has been painting** the garage for two hours.
- Lilly's eyes are red. She **was crying** / **has been crying**.
- I was reading a book while Beth **did** / **was doing** her homework.
- I'll tell Jim about the party. I'll **be seeing** / **am seeing** him at work.

**15. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple, the past continuous or the past perfect.**

- Nadia *had finished* ..... (finish) all her homework by the time her parents came home from work.
- Ali ..... (buy) a new computer two days ago.
- Harry ..... (talk) to a friend when the teacher walked into the classroom.
- First, Tina had a bath and then she ..... (go) to bed.
- The plane ..... (already/ take off) by the time we got to the airport.
- It ..... (rain) heavily while we were waiting for the train.

**16. Complete the sentences with the correct form of used to, be/get used to and the verbs in brackets.**

- Lisa is very tired this morning. She *isn't used to staying up* ..... (not/stay up) late.
- Don't worry. you ..... soon ..... (wear) contact lenses.
- He ..... (eat) a lot of chocolate when he was a child.
- I ..... (get up) at 6:30 am, so it doesn't bother me.
- Sheila lives in the city but she still ..... (not) all the noise.

**17. Fill in: used to or didn't use to.**

- I *didn't use to* ..... eat vegetables but I do now.
- He ..... ride a motorbike but he doesn't any more.
- I ..... eat a lot of sweets but I don't any more.
- She ..... like dogs but she has got two now.
- He ..... do exercise but he goes jogging every morning now.

18. Choose the correct item.

- We used ..... in a flat but now we live in a big house.  
 a) live      b) to live      c) living
- I'm used ..... up very early in the morning, so it doesn't bother me.  
 a) to get      b) getting      c) to getting
- It was difficult at first but Max is getting used ..... on the left.  
 a) drive      b) to driving      c) driving
- Dad didn't use ..... on Saturdays but he does now.  
 a) work      b) working      c) to work
- When Helen was little, her father used ..... her stories before going to bed.  
 a) tell      b) to tell      c) telling
- I never got used ..... German when I lived in Germany. It was difficult for me to learn.  
 a) speak      b) speaking      c) to speaking
- Neil isn't used ..... Chinese food.  
 a) to eat      b) to eating      c) eating
- Tom used ..... in Rome but now he's moved back to London.  
 a) live      b) to living      c) to live

19. Complete the sentences with a verb from the list in the correct form.

- watch • go • ride • wash • live • ~~drive~~

- Klaus had to get used to ...*driving*... on the left.
- We used to ..... in a small town but now we live in London.
- Lucas used to ..... a lot of TV. Now he prefers to listen to music.
- Little children are used to ..... to bed early in the evening.
- Linda used to ..... a motorbike but I think she has a car now.
- We haven't got a dishwasher, so we're used to ..... the dishes by hand.

20. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or past continuous.



Lady Diana Frances Spencer <sup>1</sup>..... **(marry)** Prince Charles in July, 1981. She <sup>2</sup>..... **(be)** the mother of their two sons, William and Harry.

The British people <sup>3</sup>..... **(love)** her for her kindness and beauty. Princess Diana <sup>4</sup>..... **(care)** a lot about the sick and the poor all over the world. Unfortunately, she <sup>5</sup>..... **(die)** in a car accident on August 31st, 1997.



One cool and windy afternoon James <sup>1</sup>..... **(decide)** to go to the park. When he <sup>2</sup>..... **(get)** there, a girl <sup>3</sup>..... **(fly)** her kite and several boys <sup>4</sup>..... **(play)** football. The boys <sup>5</sup>..... **(ask)** James to play with them. Everyone <sup>6</sup>..... **(enjoy)** themselves when suddenly dark clouds <sup>7</sup>..... **(cover)** the sky.

21. Fill in: used to or didn't use to.



When I was very little, I <sup>1</sup>...*used to*... spend a lot of time in my bedroom. I <sup>2</sup>..... play with my toys and watch cartoons. In the afternoons, I <sup>3</sup>..... go to the park with my mum. In the evenings, I <sup>6</sup>..... stay up late but now I do.