

English grammar

Past continuous

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Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.

Past continuous: affirmative

Exercise 1. Look at Jane's diary. What was she doing at these times? _____

Monday 4.30 - 5.30 p.m	have an appointment at the dentist's
Tuesday 7 - 8 p.m	play tennis with Mimi
Wednesday 8 - 10 p.m.	watch the Black Widows
Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 p.m.	revise for an English test
Friday 5 - 7 p.m.	do the shopping with Carrol
Saturday 11.30 - 12.30 a.m.	cook lunch
Sunday 9 - 10 a.m.	tidy the house with mum

On Monday at 5 p.m. she an appointment at the dentist's.

On Tuesday between 7 - 8 p.m. Jane and Mimi tennis.

On Wednesday at 9 o'clock she the Black Widows.

On Thursday from 8.30 to 9.30 she for an English test.

On Friday at 6 o'clock Jane and Carrol the shopping.

On Saturday between 11.30 and 12.30 she lunch.

On Sunday at 9.30 Jane and her mum the house.

But I don't know what she at 12 p.m. on Sunday. Was she sleeping?

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Exercise 2. What were the Thompsons doing on Sunday at 7 o'clock? _____

Mr. Thompson (cook) dinner in the kitchen.

Mrs. Thompson (clean) their car in front of their house.

Jack and Eve (sit) in the hall near the fireplace.

Jack, their 11 years old son, (read) Shakespeare's sonnets.

Eve, at the age of 16, (play) with Barbies.

Their grandma and grandpa (have) a good time.

Their grandma (exercise) in the gym.

Their grandpa (iron) shirts and socks in the living room.

They also had two pets. And do you know what they (do)?

Spot, the puppy, (catch) mice in the garden.

And Kitty, the little cute kitten, (fight) with neighbour's dog.

Past continuous: questions

Exercise 3. Julie saw Tim and Matt at the swimming pool. Make questions to complete the dialogue. _____

Sue: when you saw them? (what | Tim and Matt | do)

Julie: Tim was swimming in the pool, but I didn't see Matt first.

Sue: in the pool, too? (you | swim)

Julie: No, I wasn't. I was just looking. But then I saw Matt, too.

Sue: ? (what | he | do)

Julie: He was diving in the pool.

Sue: Diving, you say. to dive? (he | not | just | try) He can't dive.

Julie: You're right. He was just trying to do it. And all his friends were watching it.

Sue: ? (they | laugh)

Julie: Of course, they were. Matt was pretty funny. He splashed the water all over the place.

Sue: faces when he came up to the surface of the pool? (Matt | make)

Julie: Yes, he was. He was grinning and making faces at me.

Sue: At you? Vow! And what about Tim? Matt, too? (he | watch)

Julie: Not really. He was looking at me instead.

Sue: Oh, no! You're kidding. your new swimsuit? (you | wear)

Julie: Yes, I was. Why?

Sue: Now I know why Tim and Matt were watching you, Julie.

Exercise 4. Simon and his girlfriend Sharon were at a restaurant. Make questions in the past continuous to ask about them. _____

Where

At a table by the window.

What

Coffee with milk and a glass of apple juice.

What Simon

The apple juice.

..... anything?

No, nothing. They were not hungry.

What Sharon

A white pullover and black jeans.

How she in her outfit?

She was really pretty.

..... they anything special?

Not really. They were just talking.

What about?

About their friends from school.

How Simon at the restaurant?

He was quite happy and relaxed.

Past continuous: negative

Exercise 5. Complete the dialogues with negative forms. _____

A: Were you talking to Bob during dinner?

B: I to anybody. I was alone.

A: Were you watching a football match when I phoned you?

B: I TV. I was listening to music.

A: Was I wearing the blue tie at the party?

B: You any tie as far as I can remember.

A: Guess what I was doing between 5 and 6 o'clock.

B: You anything, your sister told me.

A: When I met them, Sam was buying some meat and Jill was buying drinks.

B: I don't understand why they food together.

A: I wasn't waiting for them when they arrived.

B: Why for them? What happened?

A: Eve was waving at me when we got out of the car.

B: It's not true! She at you.

A: You weren't looking very happy at the beginning of the English lesson.

B: And why happy? I didn't want to write the test!

Past continuous: statements + questions

Exercise 6. Make negative statements and questions. _____

..... a shower at 6 o'clock. (I | not have)

..... computer games when I came back home? (you | not play)

..... on the beach all day. (I | not lie)

..... when you saw us. (we | not argue)

..... between one and two o'clock? (Jane and Katy | not work)

..... on your seat when you wanted to sit down. (Dick | not sit)

..... anything at that moment. (they | not do)

..... to the airport at 11 o'clock? (Mr. Jones | not drive)

Answer keys

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Exercise 1

On Monday at 5 p.m. she was having an appointment at the dentist's.

On Tuesday between 7 - 8 p.m. Jane and Mimi were playing tennis.

On Wednesday at 9 o'clock she was watching the Black Widows.

On Thursday from 8.30 to 9.30 she was revising for an English test.

On Friday at 6 o'clock Jane and Carrol were doing the shopping.

On Saturday between 11.30 and 12.30 she was cooking lunch.

On Sunday at 9.30 Jane and her mum were tidying the house.

But I don't know what she was doing at 12 p.m. on Sunday. Was she sleeping?

Exercise 2

Mr. Thompson was cooking dinner in the kitchen.

Mrs. Thompson was cleaning their car in front of their house.

Jack and Eve were sitting in the hall near the fireplace.

Jack, their 11 years old son, was reading Shakespeare's sonnets.

Eve, at the age of 16, was playing with Barbies.

Their grandma and grandpa were having a good time.

Their grandma was exercising in the gym.

Their grandpa was ironing shirts and socks in the living room.

They also had two pets. And do you know what they were doing?

Spot, the puppy, was catching mice in the garden.

And Kitty, the little cute kitten, was fighting with neighbour's dog.

Exercise 3

Sue: What were Tim and Matt doing when you saw them?

Julie: Tim was swimming in the pool, but I didn't see Matt first.

Sue: Were you swimming in the pool, too?

Julie: No, I wasn't. I was just looking. But then I saw Matt, too.

Sue: What was he doing?

Julie: He was diving in the pool.

Sue: Diving, you say. Wasn't he (Was he not) just trying to dive? He can't dive.

Julie: You're right. He was just trying to do it. And all his friends were watching it.

Sue: Were they laughing?

Julie: Of course, they were. Matt was pretty funny. He splashed the water all over the place.

Sue: Was Matt making faces when he came up to the surface of the pool?

Julie: Yes, he was. He was grinning and making faces at me.

Sue: At you? Vow! And what about Tim? Was he watching Matt, too?

Julie: Not really. He was looking at me instead.

Sue: Oh, no! You're kidding. Were you wearing your new swimsuit?

Julie: Yes, I was. Why?

Sue: Now I know why Tim and Matt were watching you, Julie.

Exercise 4

Where were they sitting?

At a table by the window.

What were they drinking?

Coffee with milk and a glass of apple juice.

What was Simon drinking?

The apple juice.

Were they eating anything?

No, nothing. They were not hungry.

What was Sharon wearing?

A white pullover and black jeans.

How was she looking in her outfit?

She was really pretty.

Were they doing anything special?

Not really. They were just talking.

What were they talking about?

About their friends from school.

How was Simon feeling at the restaurant?

He was quite happy and relaxed.

..

Exercise 5

A: Were you talking to Bob during dinner?

B: I wasn't (was not) talking to anybody. I was alone.

A: Were you watching a football match when I phoned you?

B: I wasn't (was not) watching TV. I was listening to music.

A: Was I wearing the blue tie at the party?

B: You weren't (were not) wearing any tie as far as I can remember.

A: Guess what I was doing between 5 and 6 o'clock.

B: You weren't (were not) doing anything, your sister told me.

A: When I met them, Sam was buying some meat and Jill was buying drinks.

B: I don't understand why they weren't (were not) buying food together.

A: I wasn't waiting for them when they arrived.

B: Why weren't you (were you not) waiting for them? What happened?

A: Eve was waving at me when we got out of the car.

B: It's not true! She wasn't (was not) waving at you.

A: You weren't looking very happy at the beginning of the English lesson.

B: And why wasn't I (was I not) looking happy? I didn't want to write the test!

Exercise 6

I wasn't (was not) having a shower at 6 o'clock.

Weren't you playing | Were you not playing computer games when I came back home?

I wasn't (was not) lying on the beach all day.

We weren't (were not) arguing when you saw us.

Weren't Jane and Katy working | Were Jane and Katy not working between one and two o'clock?

Dick wasn't (was not) sitting on your seat when you wanted to sit down.

They weren't (were not) doing anything at that moment.

Wasn't Mr. Jones driving | Was Mr. Jones not driving to the airport at 11 o'clock?