

Past Continuous Exercises

Level: A2

Name: _____ Date: _____

The past continuous

Use was or were with a verb ending in -ing for an action in progress at a past time.

Form: Use was with I, he, she or it; use were with you, we or they. Add a verb ending in -ing: I was reading. They were reading.

Past time: At 8 last night, I was cooking. The action was happening at that time.

Negative: Put not after was or were: She was not sleeping. We weren't working.

Question: Put was or were first: Was he studying? Were you listening?

Spelling: Make becomes making; run becomes running.

Exercise 1: Choose the correct form

Select the past continuous form that completes each sentence.

- At 8 last night, I ___ a book.
a) was reading b) were reading c) am reading
- The children ___ in the park at noon.
a) was playing b) were playing c) are playing
- ___ your sister sleeping at 10 p.m.?
a) Was b) Were c) Did
- We ___ TV at 7. The TV was off.
a) were watching b) weren't watching c) was watching
- At that time, he ___ to school.
a) was running b) were running c) was runing

Exercise 2: Fill the gaps

Type the missing past continuous words. Use the verb in parentheses.

- She ___ (cook) at 6 yesterday.
- They ___ (walk) home at 5.
- I ___ (make) lunch at noon.
- We ___ (not sleep) at 8. We were talking.
- Were you ___ (study) at 9 last night?

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

Select the parts in order to make a sentence or question.

11. Put the words in the correct order: **a book / She was reading / at 8.**

12. Put the words in the correct order: **at noon? / Were they / playing**

13. Put the words in the correct order: **We weren't / last night. / working**

14. Put the words in the correct order: **the dog / Was / sleeping?**

Exercise 4: Right or wrong?

Decide whether each English sentence is correct.

15. I were reading at 8 last night. True / False

16. Were they playing outside at noon? True / False

17. She was makeing lunch. True / False

18. We weren't listening at that time. True / False

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct form

1. a) was reading
2. b) were playing
3. a) Was
4. b) weren't watching
5. a) was running

Exercise 2: Fill the gaps

6. was cooking
7. were walking
8. was making
9. weren't sleeping / were not sleeping
10. studying

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

11. She was reading a book at 8.
12. Were they playing at noon?
13. We weren't working last night.
14. Was the dog sleeping?

Exercise 4: Right or wrong?

15. False
16. True
17. False
18. True