

Past Progressive (Past Continuous) Tense

Note: One use of the past progressive tense is to describe an action that was happening (in progress) at a particular point in time in the past.

The Andersons' Very Full Day

The Andersons had a very busy day yesterday. Look at the schedule below and then complete the following sentences.

Time	Mr. Anderson	Mrs. Anderson
7:00 – 7:15	showered	made breakfast for family
7:15 – 7:20	shaved	
8:00 – 8:30	ate breakfast	ate breakfast
9:00 - 12:00	wrote e-mails	taught history classes
12:00 -1:00	lunch in a restaurant	ate lunch at school
1:00 - 2:00	met with boss	taught math class
2:00 - 3:00	met with secretary	met with principal
3:00 - 4:00	wrote reports	exercised at gym
4:00 – 5:00	visited clients	bought groceries
5:30 – 6:00	played tennis	made dinner
6:30 – 7:00	ate dinner at home	ate dinner
7:00 – 9:00	cleaned apartment	cleaned apartment
9:00 – 11:00	watched a movie	watched a movie
11:00	fell asleep	fell asleep

Ex. At 7:10 Mr. Anderson was taking a shower.

- At 7:15 Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 8:15 Mr. and Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 10:00 Mr. Anderson _____
- At 11:00 Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 12:30 Mr. Anderson _____
and Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 1:30 Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 3:30 Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 4:30 Mr. Anderson _____
and Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 8:00 Mr. and Mrs. Anderson _____
- At 12:30 A.M. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson _____

Past Progressive Tense – Class Survey

What were you doing at 4:00 yesterday? *I was playing basketball.*

Interview the classmates in your group. Find out what they were doing at the specific times mentioned and complete the chart below.

Time	Classmate #1	Classmate #2	Classmate #3	You
4:00 P.M. yesterday				
5:00 P.M. yesterday				
6:00 yesterday evening				
8:00 last night				
1:00 this morning				
6:00 this morning				
7:45 this morning				
8:15 this morning				
8:45 this morning				

Past Progressive Tense and Simple Past Tense

Note: The past progressive tense is used to describe an action that was in progress when another action took place.

He was driving to work when he saw the accident.

Make sentences using past progressive and simple past to describe the situation below. Follow the example given.

Yesterday, the students at Calvin High School were all busy doing things when the fire alarm rang.

ex. grade 12 boys/ play basketball /in the gym

The grade 12 boys were playing basketball in the gym when the fire alarm rang.

1. school choir/practice for the concert _____

2. grade 10 class/study Spanish _____

3. principal / meet/ with group of parents _____

4. history teachers /discuss/ final exam _____

5. custodian/ clean/ girl's locker room _____

6. the student council/ discuss/ graduation dance _____

7. actors/ rehearse/ school play _____

Past Progressive Practice

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the past progressive tense of the verbs provided.

Ex. They were standing (stand) on the corner when I saw them.

1. The sun _____ (shine) when I woke up this morning.
2. It _____ (rain) when I left the office.
3. I _____ (eat) dinner when you called me.
4. She got very sick while she _____ (travel) overseas.
5. Martin _____ (work) in the garden when it started to rain.
6. I _____ (cook) dinner when the phone rang.
7. Mr. Johnson cut himself while _____ (shave).
8. She fell asleep while she _____ (watch) the movie.
9. Andrea broke her ankle when she _____ (skate).
10. I saw a bad accident while I _____ (drive) home.
11. She found a ten dollar bill while she _____ (walk) home.
12. They _____ (speed) when the accident happened.
13. The baby _____ (sleep) when we got home from the party.
14. She broke a plate while she _____ (do) the dishes.
15. When you called, I _____ (take) a shower.
16. David met his neighbors while he _____ (move) into his new apartment.

Past Progressive Tense VS. Simple Past Tense

Directions: Read each situation below and answer the following questions. Use your imagination to answer the questions in the simple past.

Ex. Dan was walking to work when it started to rain?

What was Dan doing when it started to rain? He was walking to work.

What did Dan do when it started to rain? He opened his umbrella and ran to the bus stop.

1. Maryann was writing a letter to her boyfriend when the electricity went out.

What was Maryann doing when the lights went out?

What did Maryann do when the lights went out?

2. Brenda was cooking dinner when she saw a mouse on the kitchen floor.

What was Brenda doing when she saw the mouse?

What did Brenda do when she saw the mouse?

3. Last week Andrew was having coffee with his beautiful new secretary when his wife came into the café.

What was Andrew doing when his wife came into the café?

What did Andrew do when his wife came into the café?

4. Kevin was painting the house when he fell off the ladder.

What was Kevin doing when he fell off the ladder?

What did Kevin do when he fell off the ladder?

5. I was walking to work when I saw the car accident.

What were you doing when you saw the accident?

What did you do when you saw the accident?

Past Progressive Vs. Simple Past – Practice

Directions: Complete the following sentences using the correct form (past progressive or simple past) of the verbs provided.

1. Chris _____ (fall) off the ladder while he _____ (paint) the ceiling.
2. _____ (you/study) when I _____ (call) you last night?
3. They _____ (drive) very fast when the policeman _____ (stop) them.
4. While I _____ (drive) to work yesterday, I _____ (see) an accident.
5. I _____ (read) a great book last week.
6. My friends _____ (drop in) for a visit while I _____ (watch) TV last night.
7. I _____ (see) Andrea at the party last night. She _____ (wear) a beautiful dress.
8. The children _____ (go) to bed at 9:00 last night. At 10:00, they _____ (sleep).
9. We _____ (have) dinner at a new restaurant last night. While we _____ (eat), one of the waiters _____ (drop) a tray on the floor.
10. Monty _____ (work) in his garage last night when he _____ (hear) a loud noise. He _____ (put) down his tools and _____ (go) outside into the yard. While he _____ (look) around, someone _____ (run) out of his front door. Monty _____ (call) the police. He _____ (tell) the police that the robber _____ (wear) a black ski jacket and jeans.
11. When Sue _____ (arrive) at the theater, her friends _____ (wait) for her inside.
12. John _____ (break) his leg while he _____ (play) football.
13. Mr. Duncan _____ (get) home last night while his wife _____ (cook) dinner and the children _____ (watch) TV.
14. Paula _____ (stay) home yesterday because it _____ (snow) very heavily.

Find Someone Who.... (Past Progressive – Review)

Interview your classmates. Walk around the class and find someone....

1. who was sleeping at 10:00 last night. _____

2. who wasn't sleeping when his/her alarm clock rang this morning. _____

3. who was sitting in the classroom when the teacher came in this morning. _____

4. who was eating dinner last night when someone phoned. _____

5. who was wearing earrings yesterday. _____

6. who was chewing gum before class. _____

7. who was doing homework at 9:30 last night. _____

8. who was taking a bath at 10:00 last night. _____

9. who was playing a sport at 8:00 last night. _____

10. who was standing in the hall when the class began this morning. _____
