

2.2 Past Continuous, Used to do

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From

Affirmative

<p>You We They The teachers (A plural noun)</p>	<p>were working</p>	<p>at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.</p>	
<p>I He She It The teacher (A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</p>	<p>was working</p>	<p>at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.</p>	<p>yesterday morning. 3 o'clock yesterday.</p>



Negative

<p>You We They The teachers (A plural noun)</p>	<p>were not (weren't) working</p>	<p>at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.</p>	<p>yesterday morning.</p>
<p>I He She It The teacher (A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</p>	<p>was not (wasn't) working</p>	<p>at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.</p>	<p>3 o'clock yesterday.</p>



Yes/No Questions and short answers

Questions			Short answers	
Was	I	working at Suan Su nandha Rajabhat University?	Yes, you was	No, you were not. / weren't.
Were	you we they the teachers (A plural noun)		Yes, I was. Yes, we were. Yes, they were	No, I was not. No, we were not (weren't) No, they were not.
Was	he she it the teacher (A singular noun / An uncountable noun)		Yes, s/ he was. Yes, it was.	No, s/ he was not. (wasn't) No, it' was not. (wasn't)

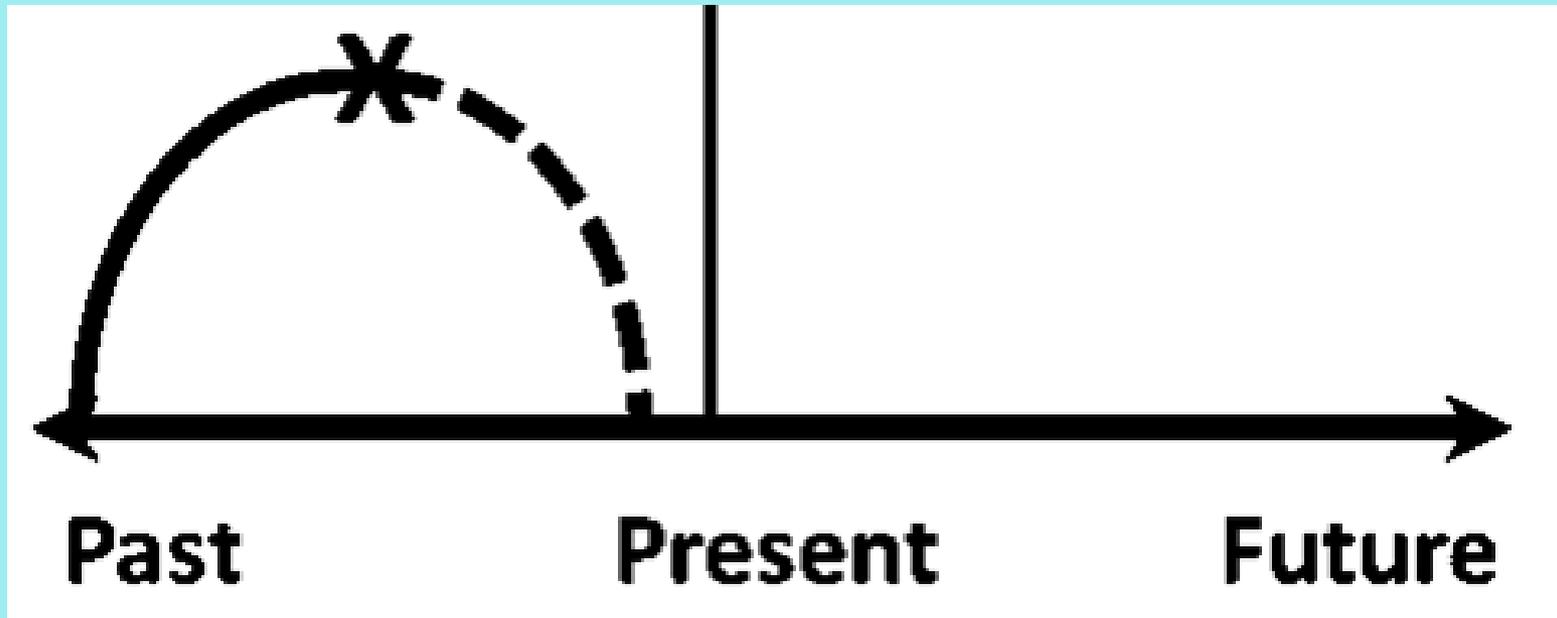


Wh-Questions and answers

Questions				Answers		
What	was	I	doing?	You were	sitting on the floor	yesterday morning? 3 o'clock yesterday?
	were	you we they the teachers (A plural noun)		I was We were They were		
	was	he she it the teacher (A singular noun / An uncountable noun)		He was She was It was		



USE



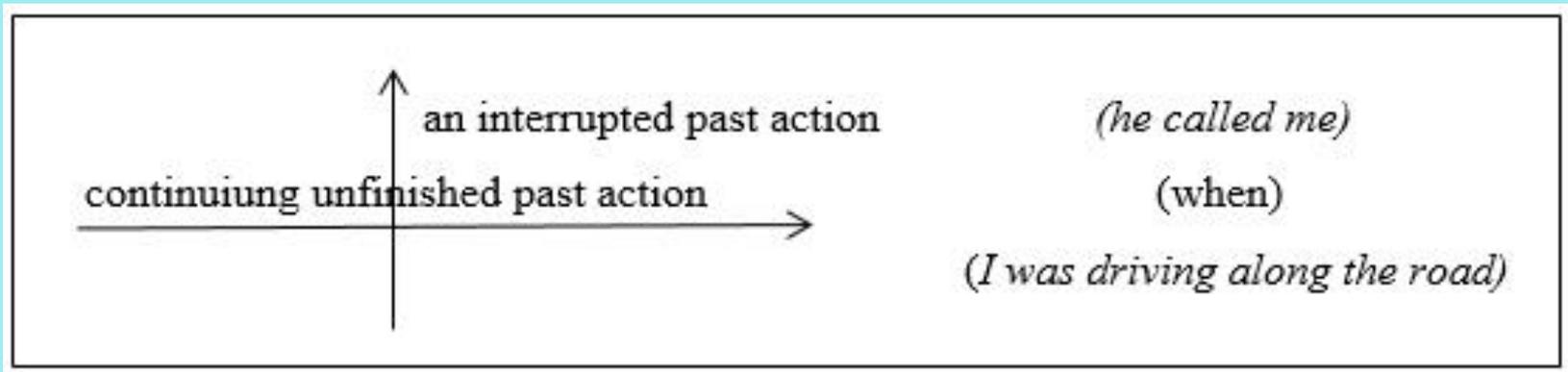
Use past continuous

1. for a continuing unfinished action in the past.

Ex. Four people were waiting in the park yesterday morning at 10.30.

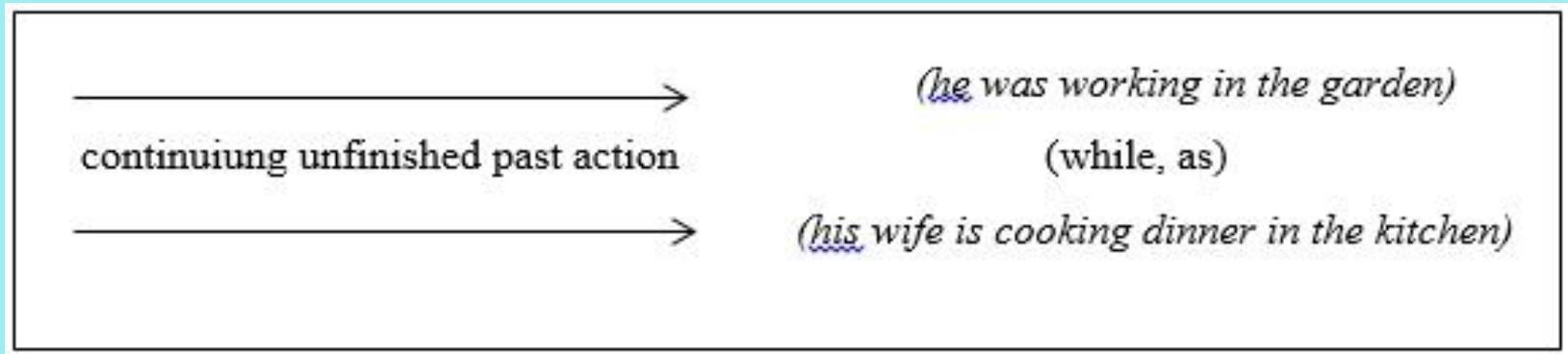
2. for a continuing unfinished action which was interrupted by a sudden past action.

Ex. I was driving along the road when he called me.



3. for two continuing events happening at the same time.

Ex. He was working in the garden while his wife is cooking dinner in the kitchen.



Note

while, when

'While and As' are used with past continuous showing the time the event was happening

'When' is used with past simple for actions.



Used to

1. Use *'used to'* when describing habits and states in the past that continued for months or years, and emphasizing that the situation today is different.

Ex. A lot of Thai people used to grow their own rice in the past.

(Nowadays people usually buy rice from a shop.)

My husband used to work at home.

(My husband doesn't work at home now.)

2. Use *'did' + 'use to'* to make negative sentences and questions.

Ex. Paul didn't use to play chess.

Danny didn't use to smoke a pipe.

Did Alison use to walk to school?

Did your parents use to read you before going to bed?



Exercise 1 Complete the sentences with the correct verb forms of past continuous.

1. It was raining (rain) when I left home this morning.
2. I tried to explain the situation to my boss, but he wasn't listening (not listen).
3. Tons of people were waiting (wait) for the last subway last night.
4. I was staying (stay) in New York when I met them.
5. The car was coming (come) towards me, fortunately I was quick enough to move out of its way.
6. Which taxi were you taking (you / take) when you lost your wallet?
7. Luckily, he wasn't driving (not / drive) too fast when the child ran into the road in front of my sedan.
8. What was she doing (she / do) at three o'clock in the afternoon yesterday.
9. Sue was reading (read) a book while Liz was taking (take) bath when I called them.
10. Alison was listening (listen) to music very loud while Caroline was drawing (draw) a picture.



Exercise 2 Put the verbs into the past continuous or past simple.

1. A: Was Julie busy when you went to see her?

B: Yes, she was studying (study).

2. A: What time did the postman arrive (the postman / arrive) this morning?

B: He came (come) while I was having (have) breakfast.

3. A: Was Thomson at work today?

B: No, he didn't go (not / go) to work. He had a terrible headache.

4. A: How fast were you driving (you / drive) when the police stopped (stop) you?

B: I don't know exactly, but I was not driving (drive) that fast.



6. A: Did you win (you / win) the match yesterday?

B: Not exactly. It rained a lot so we didn't play (not / play).

7. A: How did you break (you / break) the plate?

B: We were washing (wash) the dishes. I picked (pick) it up and it accidentally fell (fall).

8. A: Did you see (you / see) Jenny last night?

B: Yes, she was (be) in an elegant dress.

9. A: What were you doing (you / do) at three o'clock this morning?

B: I was (be) in bed.

10. A: I lost (lose) my mobile phone last night?

B: How did you call (you / call) your parents then?

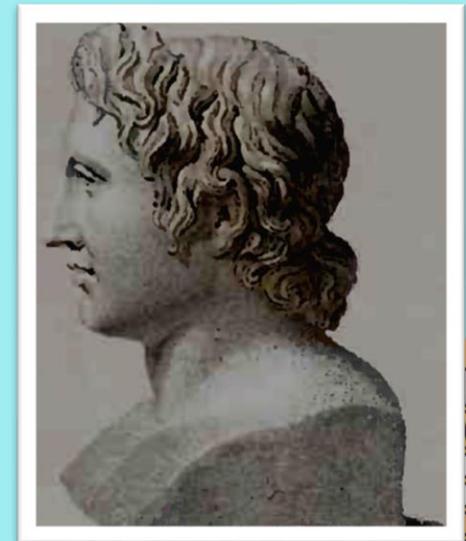
A: I borrowed (borrow) my friend's mobile.



Exercise 3 Complete the sentence with the past simple or past continuous form of verb in brackets

Alexander the Great

- a. While he was growing up (grow up), the philosopher Aristotle was his teacher. Alexander became (become) interested in science, medicine, philosophy and literature.
- b. While his father Philip was attending (attend) his daughter's wedding, a young nobleman murdered (murder) him. Alexander was king of Macedonia at the age of 20.
- c. While he was fighting (fight) his enemies in the north, the Greek in the south started (start) a rebellion. He destroyed (destroy) all their cities.
- d. He led (lead) his army against the Persian Empire through what is now Turkey. While he was staying (stay) in the ancient city of Gordium, he undid (undo) the Gordian knot. A legend said that only a future king of Asia could do this.
- e. While his army was marching (march) through Persia, it defeated (defeat) Darius, the king of Persia.



C

B

- f. He **founded** (found) the city of Alexandria at the mouth of the Nile while he **was visiting** (visit) Egypt.
- g. While he **was traveling** (travel) with his army, he **gave** (give) his name to many other towns.
- h. He **killed** (kill) his friend Clitus in a quarrel, while they **were having** (have) dinner.
- i. While he **was attacking** (attack) the city of Mali in India, he **received** (receive) a serious wound from an arrow.
- j. While he **was attending** (attend) a banquet in Babylon in 323 BC, he **fell** (fall) ill and **died** (die).

Note. From Macmillan English Grammar in Context (p.20), by V. Micheal, 2008, Oxford: Macmillan.



Exercise 4 Complete the sentences with 'used to' and the verbs from the list.

eat go have (x2) live be (x2) play (x2) get up

1. I used to play volleyball. I stopped playing a few months ago.
2. Have you got a bicycle? - 'No, I used to have one but I sold it.'
3. Gary used to be a waiter in a restaurant, but he has his own café.
4. When I was a child I never used to eat meat, but I eat it now.
5. My family used to live near the river, but we moved to the city center two years ago.
6. When I worked at the city hotel, I used to get up very early to catch the first bus.
7. What game did you use to play when you were little?
8. Did you you use to go swimming every day when you were a swimmer?
9. His mother used to have long hair as I remembered.
10. This building used to be the highest in this area.



Exercise 5 Complete the sentence with 'used to' + verb in brackets in positive, negative or question form.

1. What things used to be (be) different in the past??
2. For a start, all the continents used to form (form) one large land mass.
3. Obviously, there didn't use to be (be) cities and buildings, and forest covered a third of the Earth.
4. The climate was different, and animals such as hippocampus and rhinoceros used to exist (exist)
5. Many mountains in Europe used to be (be) active volcanoes.
6. Early people didn't use to live (live) in complex societies, but in small groups in places where there could find food.
7. What did you use to eat (eat)? They used to eat (eat) whatever they could find.
8. Early people didn't use to stay (stay) in the same place, but used to travel (travel) long distances, following the animals they needed for food.

Note. From Macmillan English Grammar in Context (p.21), by V. Micheal, 2008, Oxford: Macmillan.



The End

