

FUMC ESL 10-9-2017 High Intermediate Lesson Present Continuous and Past Continuous

In both present continuous and past continuous tenses, you use a “to be” verb (is, am, are OR was, were) plus the “ing” form of the verb.

Present Continuous: am studying, is studying, are studying

Past Continuous: was studying, were studying

We use present continuous tense to talk about something happening right now. EX: I am studying English.

We use past continuous tense to talk about what was happening when something else occurred. EX: I was studying English when the phone rang. We were crossing the street when the accident happened.

We don't use past continuous sentences alone unless we answer a question. For example, you don't say, “I was walking the dog.” unless someone asks you what you were doing. We frequently use past continuous with a “when” or a “while” phrase. EX: We were watching TV when the phone rang.

Notice that these sentences can have a past continuous verb and a past tense verb. In the sentences below, underline the two verbs. The first one is done for you.

1. The kids were playing outside when the storm hit.
2. We were practicing our math skills while the teacher talked to the parents.
3. I was baking a cake when Mother arrived.
4. You weren't listening to me when I told you to turn off the TV.
5. While I was working on my homework, the electricity went off.
6. All the machines were running when I left the office.
7. My boss was helping a customer while I completed the paperwork.
8. My wife directed the orchestra while I spoke with the audience.
9. What was she doing while you cooked the dinner?
10. What was Matt teaching when you taught there?

The verbs in these sentences are incorrect. Correct them.

1. Please be quiet. I do work. _____
2. It isn't rain right now. _____
3. What are you do tonight? _____
4. What were you do last night? _____
5. I am losing my passport. _____
6. I am not understanding you. _____
7. She is doubting me. _____
8. I am liking my new teachers. _____
9. She was recognizing me. _____
10. This orange is tasting strange. _____

11. I'm afraid I'm disagreeing with you. _____
12. We are belonging to a tennis club. _____
13. I am hating my apartment. _____
14. It is depending on how much it costs. _____
15. She said it was involving a lot of work. _____
16. That trick was looking impossible. _____
17. The children were constantly fought. _____
18. Were you tried to call me a minute ago? _____
19. Were you want to go home early? _____
20. We were finish the last exercise when the bell rang. _____

Finish these sentences:

1. When I'm sitting in traffic, I like to ...
2. When I get home at the end of a long day, I like to...
3. When I eat pizza I like to...
4. Before I go to sleep, I always...

Discuss:

1. Everyone in America remembers what they were doing when the planes crashed into the towers on 9-11. Think about a major event and talk about what you were doing when it happened.
2. My friend wishes he had paid more attention to his children when they were growing up. Do you have any regrets about things you didn't do in the past?