

# 6 PAST CONTINUOUS

Se usa para expresar una acción que estaba pasando en «aquel momento» del que estamos hablando y de su duración en el pasado. No es lo mismo *I sang* (canté) que *I was singing* (estaba cantando); la segunda frase nos hace entender que la acción duró más tiempo.

Hay dos posibles traducciones del *past continuous*. *I was singing* lo podemos traducir como «estaba cantando» o «cantaba» (pretérito imperfecto de indicativo).

**¡Atención!** Repasa las reglas ortográficas de *-ing* en la página 19.

## ESTRUCTURA

### Afirmativa

Sujeto + *was/were* + verbo *-ing* + complementos

*She was playing in the street.* (Jugaba en la calle.)

### Negativa

Sujeto + *was/were* + *not* + verbo *-ing* + complementos

*She wasn't opening the door.* (No estaba abriendo la puerta.)

### Interrogativa

(Partícula interrogativa) + *was/were* + sujeto + verbo *-ing* + complementos + ?

*Why was Peter driving my car?* (¿Por qué conducía Peter mi coche?)

*Were you eating at eight o'clock?* (¿Estabas comiendo a las ocho?)

## TO PLAY

AFIRMATIVA	NEGATIVA		INTERROGATIVA
	Forma completa	Forma contraída	
I was playing.	I was not playing.	I wasn't playing.	(Where) was I playing?
You were playing.	You were not playing.	You weren't playing.	(Where) were you playing?
He was playing.	He was not playing.	He wasn't playing.	(Where) was he playing?
She was playing.	She was not playing.	She wasn't playing.	(Where) was she playing?
It was playing.	It was not playing.	It wasn't playing.	(Where) was it playing?
We were playing.	We were not playing.	We weren't playing.	(Where) were we playing?
You were playing.	You were not playing.	You weren't playing.	(Where) were you playing?
They were playing.	They were not playing.	They weren't playing.	(Where) were they playing?

**¡Atención!** Es igual que el *present continuous*, pero solo cambiamos la forma del verbo *be*. El gerundio (verbo *-ing*) es igual para todas las personas. La partícula interrogativa puede aparecer o no, por eso está entre paréntesis.

### Reglas ortográficas

Para la formación del gerundio debes revisar las reglas ortográficas explicadas en la página 19 en el capítulo del *present continuous*.

## EJERCICIOS

**1** Escribe el gerundio y el significado de estos verbos.

**Ejemplo:** *prepare: preparing - preparar*

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 say: .....    | 19 cook: .....    |
| 2 die: .....    | 20 try: .....     |
| 3 put: .....    | 21 drive: .....   |
| 4 ski: .....    | 22 listen: .....  |
| 5 play: .....   | 23 brush: .....   |
| 6 buy: .....    | 24 smile: .....   |
| 7 sleep: .....  | 25 wash: .....    |
| 8 paint: .....  | 26 help: .....    |
| 9 eat: .....    | 27 tidy: .....    |
| 10 touch: ..... | 28 shine: .....   |
| 11 work: .....  | 29 shout: .....   |
| 12 close: ..... | 30 stay: .....    |
| 13 ride: .....  | 31 carry: .....   |
| 14 open: .....  | 32 bake: .....    |
| 15 get: .....   | 33 fight: .....   |
| 16 give: .....  | 34 climb: .....   |
| 17 copy: .....  | 35 float: .....   |
| 18 visit: ..... | 36 deliver: ..... |

**2** Escribe las frases en *past continuous* en la forma afirmativa.

**Ejemplo:** Peter was writing a letter. (write)

- 1 Our dog ..... in the park. (run)
- 2 My husband ..... yesterday. (draw)
- 3 We ..... cards in the living room. (play)
- 4 My father ..... the kitchen in the morning. (tidy)
- 5 Sally ..... loudly. (shout)
- 6 The sun ..... (shine)
- 7 The children ..... beautifully. (sing)
- 8 Ivan ..... a postcard. (write)
- 9 I ..... a cake in the evening. (bake)
- 10 My daughter ..... a bicycle in the park. (ride)
- 11 We ..... a sandwich under a big tree. (eat)
- 12 The cat ..... on the chair. (sit)
- 13 My neighbour ..... the shopping. (carry)
- 14 I ..... an orange juice in the kitchen. (drink)
- 15 The bus ..... slowly. (stop)
- 16 My parents ..... happily. (smile)
- 17 The water ..... (boil)
- 18 The police officer ..... questions. (ask)
- 19 The soldiers ..... near the mountains. (fight)
- 20 The butcher ..... some meat. (cut)
- 21 I ..... a bath at eight. (have)
- 22 The plane ..... to Rome. (fly)
- 23 My husband ..... in the bathroom. (shave)
- 24 It ..... a lot in Scotland. (rain)
- 25 We ..... on the grass. (lie)

**3** Escribe las frases en *past continuous* en la forma negativa.

**Ejemplo:** Peter wasn't driving then. (not drive)

- 1 I ..... a bath at five o'clock. (not have)
- 2 The dog ..... all night. (not bark)
- 3 We ..... loudly. (not shout)
- 4 The owner ..... his old pictures. (not sell)
- 5 The postman ..... parcels. (not deliver)
- 6 The electrician ..... the lamps in the living room. (not repair)
- 7 She ..... a big box. (not carry)
- 8 My mother ..... a cake in the kitchen. (not bake)
- 9 The waiter ..... a piece of pizza for me. (not cut)
- 10 Sarah ..... in the street. (not run)
- 11 Our teacher ..... in the classroom. (not sing)
- 12 They ..... yesterday. (not wash)
- 13 The students ..... in Switzerland. (not ski)
- 14 Sam and Joe ..... flowers at the florist's. (not buy)
- 15 My husband ..... the room yesterday. (not paint)
- 16 She ..... the dog. (not touch)
- 17 I ..... the red dress on. (not try)
- 18 The assistant ..... her the photographs. (not give)
- 19 My boss ..... his mother. (not visit)
- 20 I ..... the magazines on the shelf. (not put)
- 21 My daughter ..... her room. (not tidy)
- 22 My friend ..... my horse. (not ride)
- 23 She ..... her long hair. (not brush)
- 24 We ..... your ideas. (not copy)
- 25 My uncle ..... a lorry. (not drive)

**4** Escribe las frases en *past continuous* en la forma interrogativa.

**Ejemplo:** Where was Peter working? (Peter / work)

- 1 What ..... here? (she / do)
- 2 Who ..... the door? (open)
- 3 What time ..... the house? (he / paint)
- 4 Where .....? (the frog / jump)
- 5 Who .....? (you / help)
- 6 What .....? (they / sing)
- 7 Why .....? (she / cook)
- 8 When ..... my bicycle? (Daddy / ride)
- 9 What .....? (they / drink)
- 10 Where ..... sport? (Mary / do)
- 11 How many children ..... in the garden? (play)
- 12 Where ..... early in the morning? (Lina / go)
- 13 Why ..... the shop so late? (she / close)
- 14 .....? (my turtle / eat)
- 15 ..... with swords? (the men / fight)
- 16 They ..... in an expensive hotel. (stay)
- 17 ..... during the concert? (she / smoke)
- 18 ..... some presents for your family? (you / buy)
- 19 ..... in Seville? (it / rain)
- 20 ..... yesterday? (the sun / shine)
- 21 ..... well? (he / sleep)
- 22 ..... her homework slowly? (she / write)
- 23 ..... her feet in the water? (my daughter / put)
- 24 ..... the mountain? (Peter / climb)
- 25 The kite ..... in the sky. (fly)

**5** Traduce.

1 Jane estaba comiendo en un restaurante caro.

.....

2 ¿Dónde estabas leyendo?

.....

3 Yo estaba diciendo lo mismo.

.....

4 ¿Por qué estaba sonriendo ella?

.....

5 Conducíamos.

.....

6 No jugábamos al fútbol.

.....

7 ¿Qué te probabas?

.....

8 Estaban esquiando la semana pasada.

.....

9 ¿Quién montaba a caballo?

.....

10 Mi madre no dormía bien.

.....

11 Él estaba tocando la cara de ella.

.....

12 ¿Qué estabas copiando?

.....

13 No comprábamos muchas cosas.

.....

14 Estábamos escuchando las noticias.

.....

**6** Completa estas frases en *past continuous*.

**Ejemplo:** Three little birds were flying in the sky. (fly)

- 1 Your aunt ..... you. (visit)
- 2 Who ..... bread? (sell)
- 3 My brother ..... the wall. (not climb)
- 4 ..... puzzles at school? (the children / do)
- 5 They ..... in a romantic hotel in Germany. (stay)
- 6 The farmer ..... the animals. (feed)
- 7 ..... in the meeting? (the director / smoke)
- 8 Peter ..... the glasses. (not clean)
- 9 The lawyer ..... about the problem. (think)
- 10 My grandmother ..... lovingly. (smile)
- 11 ..... to the concert? (she / go)
- 12 The teacher ..... the exams. (not deliver)
- 13 It ..... on the water. (float)
- 14 ..... after the story? (the baby / cry)
- 15 What ..... in a ship? (Peter / do)
- 16 My sister ..... to Country music. (dance)
- 17 ..... to me? (you / listen)
- 18 She ..... her room. (not tidy)
- 19 My dog ..... bones under the tree. (put)
- 20 The wind ..... noisily. (blow)
- 21 The girls ..... on the floor. (not lie)
- 22 ..... the flowers? (the gardener / cut)
- 23 What ..... you? (she / give)
- 24 I ..... a lot. (learn)
- 25 ..... this exercise? (my daughter / write)

## Worksheet 2

## Past continuous

1 Complete the table with the correct past form of *be*.

I	<i>was</i>	using my mobile phone	at 8pm. when you arrived.
You		listening to music	
He		eating a sandwich	
She		laughing	
We		watching TV	
They		swimming	

Now make the sentences negative.

*I wasn't using my mobile phone at 8pm.*

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Now make questions.

*Was I using my mobile phone at 8pm?*

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2 Write questions.

you / watch him – *Were you watching him?*

1 you / talk

2 they / laugh

3 she / take photos

4 you / shop

5 he / run

3 Read the questions you wrote in exercise 2.  
Then complete the answers.

1 No, I \_\_\_\_\_

2 Yes, they \_\_\_\_\_

3 Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_

4 No, we \_\_\_\_\_

5 Yes, he \_\_\_\_\_

4 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form.

1 I \_\_\_\_\_ (run) when you saw me because I was late.

2 They \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for a bus when the car crashed.

3 Gabi and Laura \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) at 8pm.

4 Tomek \_\_\_\_\_ (not / eat) a sandwich when Ben fell into the river.

5 What \_\_\_\_\_ Carol and Jack \_\_\_\_\_ (do) when Pedro phoned?

6 \_\_\_\_\_ Sally \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a photo when I phoned?

7 Pedro and Tomek \_\_\_\_\_ (not / laugh) when Ben fell in the river.



**Ejercicio 4** Escribe preguntas con partícula interrogativa para estas respuestas. Recuerda que debes usar el *past continuous*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_?  
The dog was sleeping on her bed.
2. \_\_\_\_\_?  
The children were playing basketball.
3. \_\_\_\_\_?  
We were going to the cinema.
4. \_\_\_\_\_?  
She was crying last night.
5. \_\_\_\_\_?  
The plumber<sup>4</sup> was fixing the tap<sup>5</sup>.

**Ejercicio 5** Traduce estas oraciones al inglés.

1. Ayer, a las siete de la tarde, yo estaba jugando al fútbol.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mi madre estuvo trabajando todo el día.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Ricardo no estaba haciendo sus deberes cuando le llamé.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. ¿Estabas escuchando música?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. ¿Por qué estaba Lisa llorando anoche?  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>4</sup> fontanero

<sup>5</sup> grifo

13 Past continuous: affirmative, negative, questions, short answers (2)

3 Lee la tabla. Luego corrige las frases.  
Escribe una frase negativa y una afirmativa.

	Nuria	Lori and Dan
18:30 – 19:30	read	work
19:30 – 20:30	study	have dinner
20:30 – 22.00	listen to a CD	watch TV

At seven o'clock ...

Nuria was listening to music.

Nuria wasn't listening to music.  
She was reading.

At eight o'clock ...

1 Nuria was working.

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Lori and Dan were studying.

\_\_\_\_\_

At nine o'clock ...

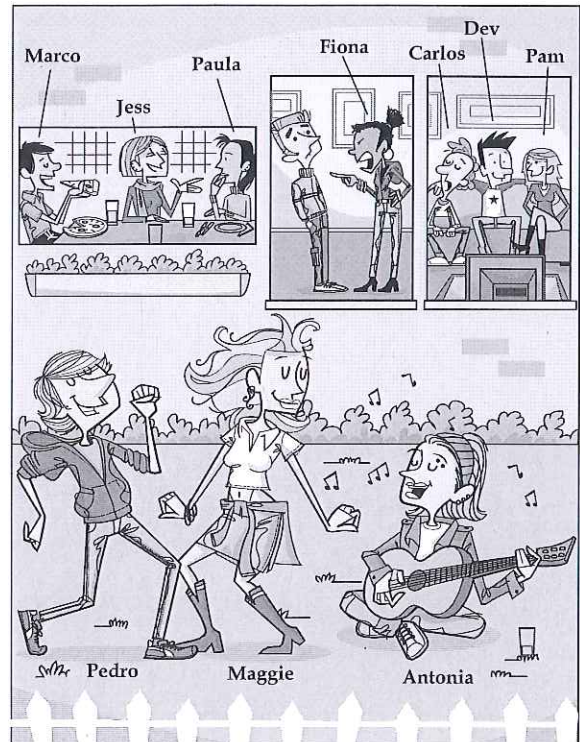
3 Nuria was watching TV.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Lori and Dan were having dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Completa las preguntas, las respuestas cortas y las frases.



Were Maggie and Pedro having  
(have) dinner?

No, they weren't.

They were dancing (dance).

1 \_\_\_\_\_ Dev \_\_\_\_\_ (read)?

No, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ (watch) TV.

2 \_\_\_\_\_ Jess and Paula \_\_\_\_\_ (chat)?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ (chat) with Marco.

3 \_\_\_\_\_ Fiona \_\_\_\_\_ (shout)?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ (shout) at her  
boyfriend.

4 \_\_\_\_\_ Antonia \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the flute?


No, \_\_\_\_\_.


\_\_\_\_\_ (play) the guitar.


Vocabulario clave

at (eight) o'clock a las (ocho) boyfriend novio chat charlar dance bailar feel well sentirse bien  
flute flauta French francés friend(s) amigo/a(s) guitar guitarra have dinner cenar laugh reírse  
listen escuchar music música play jugar/tocar read leer shout gritar snow nevar study estudiar  
TV televisión watch ver work trabajar yesterday ayer


**Ejercicio 1** ¿Qué estaban haciendo estas personas ayer a las 11 de la mañana? Escribe frases afirmativas utilizando el past continuous.

1.  Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in class.

2.  The baby \_\_\_\_\_ (cry).

3.  They \_\_\_\_\_ (run).

4.  The boy \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) at the bus stop.

5.  The ladies \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) a cup of tea.

**Ejercicio 2** Contesta con respuestas largas a las siguientes preguntas. Cuando la respuesta sea "no" escribe la respuesta correcta.



1. Was Danny studying English last night?

No, Danny wasn't studying English last night.

He was watching TV.



2. Were Paul and Emma dancing last night?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Was Christine swimming yesterday?

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4. Was Mrs. White playing tennis yesterday?

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5. Was Mrs. Brown teaching History?

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**Ejercicio 3** Escribe preguntas tipo Yes/No para las siguientes repuestas.

1. Were you waiting on the corner?  
Yes, I was. I was waiting on the corner.
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, the children were sleeping when you phoned.
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, he was. Alan was speaking to his new girlfriend when I saw him.
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
No, I wasn't watching TV. I was revising<sup>1</sup> the English vocab.
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
No, they weren't arguing. They were rehearsing<sup>2</sup> for the school play<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> repasar

<sup>2</sup> ensayar

<sup>3</sup> obra de teatro