

## Week 4

### Grammar:

L.O. To understand what is meant by the past progressive tense.

What does 'past progressive tense' mean?

**Past Progressive** Tense. The **PAST PROGRESSIVE** TENSE indicates continuing action, something that was happening, going on, at some point in the **past**. This tense is formed with the helping "to be" verb, in the **past** tense, plus the **present** participle of the verb (with an -ing ending): I was riding my bike all day yesterday.

*An action that happened in the past and it carried on going for a while, whilst something else happened.*

The past continuous tense describes a past action that was happening at the same time as another action occurred.

E.g. They were falling asleep when they heard a loud crash.

The past continuous is used for a continuous action in the past, for example:

*I was working hard when the telephone interrupted me.*

*Everyone was shouting.*

*They were always arguing.*

## Past continuous / progressive

I was

You were

He / she / it was

We were

You were

They were

+ \_\_\_\_\_ing

Present participle  
of main verb

Past  
tense of  
to be

Or have been

Something was happening  
whilst something else  
was happening.

In some sentences, it can also be written as 'have been'. This has been used in exam questions.

E.g. They have been listening to music whilst they cleaned their bedrooms.

**Tick to show which sentence uses the past progressive.**

After Dad had mowed the lawn, he had a nap.

Archie had learnt his spellings.

Francesca was learning a song for the school play.

Tom found his maths too difficult.

Answer: Francesca was learning a song for the school play.

The *past progressive tense* can be used to describe an activity in the past which was interrupted:

- He **was painting** the door when a bird struck the window.
- They **were sleeping** when the alarm went off.

You can also have a negative version:

- He **wasn't painting** the door when a bird struck the window.
- They **weren't sleeping** when the alarm went off.

And the question version:

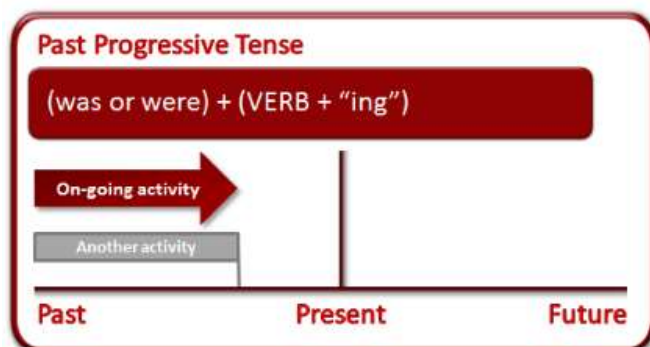
- **Was he painting** the door when a bird struck the window?
- **Were they sleeping** when the alarm went off?

The *past progressive tense* can also be used for describing an action taking place when another occurred.

- While they **were painting** the door, I painted the windows.
- While they **weren't painting** the door, I painted the windows.
- **Were they painting** the door when I painted the windows?
- **Weren't they painting** the door when I painted the windows?

And, it can be used for describing an action which was taking place at the same time as another:

- While they **were painting** the door, I **was painting** the windows.



*So, an action was happening whilst something else was happening.*

The **past progressive tense** is formed like this:

For singular:

**was** + **[verb]** + **ing**

*or*

*Have been + verb+ing*



















For plural:

**were** + **[verb]** + **ing**

Have a look at the following sheet. Can you identify and circle the correct one showing past progressive tense?






Circle the sentence which uses the past progressive to describe the picture.

								
								
She was eating breakfast. She ate breakfast.	They were playing outside. They played outside.	He ate his lunch. He was eating his lunch.	They were learning. It was lesson time.	She walked home. She was walking home.	He ate his tea. He was eating his tea.	He listened to a story. He was listening to a story.	He brushed his teeth. He was brushing his teeth.	She was sleeping. She was asleep.

Answers:

Circle the sentence which uses the past progressive to describe the picture.

								
								
<input checked="" type="radio"/> She was eating breakfast. <input type="radio"/> She ate breakfast.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> They were playing outside. <input type="radio"/> They played outside.	<input type="radio"/> He ate his lunch. <input checked="" type="radio"/> He was eating his lunch.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> They were learning. <input type="radio"/> It was lesson time.	<input type="radio"/> She walked home. <input checked="" type="radio"/> She was walking home.	<input type="radio"/> He ate his tea. <input checked="" type="radio"/> He was eating his tea.	<input type="radio"/> He listened to a story. <input checked="" type="radio"/> He was listening to a story.	<input type="radio"/> He brushed his teeth. <input checked="" type="radio"/> He was brushing his teeth.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> She was sleeping. <input type="radio"/> She was asleep.

Now, if you want an extension to this:

Have a go at extending the above phrases.

E.g.

1) In the morning, she was eating breakfast when her teacher rang from school.