

Free English Grammar * Grammatica Inglese Gratis

Past Continuous = *passato continuo*

I was working = *Io stavo lavorando*
 You were working = *Tu stavi lavorando*
 He was working = *Egli stava lavorando ecc.*

Forma Positiva

I was working
 you were working
 he was working
 we were working
 you were working
 they were working

Forma Interrogativa

was I working?
 were you working?
 was he working?
 were we working?
 were you working?
 were they working?

Forma Negativa

I was not working
 you were not working
 he was not working
 we were not working
 you were not working
 they were not working

Forma Contratta

I wasn't working
 you weren't working
 he wasn't working
 we weren't working
 you weren't working
 they weren't working

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past continuous

Robert and Millie

- Robert - What **were** you **doing** all morning, Millie?
- Millie - What **was** I **doing**, dear?
- Robert - Yes! What **were** you **doing**? I telephoned you at least six times, between ten and twelve. But always - no answer! What were you doing?
- Millie - I **was waiting** for a bus, dear.
- Robert - Where? In the kitchen?
- Millie - No, dear. I **was waiting** for a bus at the bus stop.
- Robert - Why **were** you **waiting** all that time?
- Millie - Because it **was raining**, and the buses were all full, dear.
- Robert - But you **weren't waiting** for two hours!
- Millie - No, dear. For half an hour.
- Robert - And what **were** you **doing** for the other hour and a half?
- Millie - I **was coming** home on foot, dear.
- Robert - WHY ON FOOT? Why didn't you take a taxi? In all that rain!
- Millie - Because all last week you **were saying** that we must save money, dear.
- Robert - Oh - well - here is thirty pounds! Keep it for the next time it rains. The buses are always crowded on rainy days.
- Millie - Thirty pounds! Oh, Robert! I - I don't know how to thank you, dear.
- Robert - Rubbish!

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past continuous

Il "*Past Continuous*" è usato anche per indicare che un'azione più lunga *al passato* è stata interrotta.

- > When the telephone rang, Jane **was sleeping** soundly.
(Quando il telefono suonò, Jane *stava dormendo* profondamente.)
- > When Abel arrived at Barbra's house, she **was playing** the piano.
(Quando Abel giunse alla casa di Barbra, lei *stava suonando* il pianoforte.)
- > When my plane landed at Fiumicino airport, my friend Francesco **was waiting** for me.
- > - What **were you doing** when I telephoned you yesterday?
- I **was working** in the garden, this is why I didn't hear the phone.

Quando il "*Past Continuous*" è usato con due azioni nella stessa frase, esprime l'idea che le due azioni stanno occorrendo contemporaneamente.

- > While I **was reading** the newspaper, my dear husband **was preparing** dinner.
- > When I **was coming** home from work, it **was raining** hard, so I got completely wet.
- > The boys and girls at the party **were having** real fun. They **were eating, drinking, singing** and **laughing**.