

Past continuous

forma affermativa

I **was** crying.
 You **were** crying.
 He **was** crying.
 She **was** crying.
 It **was** crying.
 We **were** crying.
 You **were** crying.
 They **were** crying.

forma negativa

I **wasn't** crying.
 You **weren't** crying.
 He **wasn't** crying.
 She **wasn't** crying.
 It **wasn't** crying.
 We **weren't** crying.
 You **weren't** crying.
 They **weren't** crying.

uso

Il **Past continuous** corrisponde all'imperfetto italiano o alla costruzione stavo, stavi, ecc. + verbo al gerundio.

The teacher **was writing** on the blackboard.

L'insegnante scriveva / stava scrivendo alla lavagna.

Il **Past continuous** si usa per descrivere un'azione che era in corso in un momento preciso del passato.

Yesterday at 7 p.m. I **was playing** football.

Con questo significato il **Past continuous** è spesso accompagnato da espressioni di tempo che collocano l'azione nel passato e ne indicano la durata, quali:

- **from ... to**

Yesterday Sheila **was shopping from 3 to 4** p.m.

- **between ... and**

We **were having** breakfast **between 7 and 7.30**.

Il **Past continuous** si usa anche per parlare di un'azione che stava avvenendo nel passato e che viene interrotta da un'altra.

I **was reading** a book when the phone rang.

Stavo leggendo un libro quando squillò il telefono.

In questo caso si usa il **Past continuous** per l'azione che era in corso nel passato e il **Past simple** per l'azione che la interrompe.

?

forma interrogativa

forma interrogativa	risposte brevi
Was I crying?	Yes, you were . / No, you weren't .
Were you crying?	Yes, I was . / No, I'm wasn't .
Was he crying?	Yes, he was . / No, he wasn't .
Was she crying?	Yes, she was . / No, she wasn't .
Was it crying?	Yes, it was . / No, it wasn't .
Were we crying?	Yes, you were . / No, you weren't .
Were you crying?	Yes, we were . / No, we weren't .
Were they crying?	Yes, they were . / No, they weren't .

Watch the video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeKZ6Mm-SIY>

PAST SIMPLE E PAST CONTINUOUS

In una stessa frase, si usa il Past Continuous insieme al Past Simple quando un'azione breve interrompe il flusso di un'altra azione di durata maggiore nel passato.

Si usa il Past Simple per l'azione breve, si usa il Past Continuous per l'azione lunga.

Come congiunzione tra le due frasi, si usa **WHILE** (mentre) o **WHEN** (quando) .

→ I was cooking **when** Adam called me on the phone.
(AZIONE LUNGA) (AZIONE BREVE)

→ The teacher came into the class **while** we were making a lot of noise.
(AZIONE BREVE) (AZIONE LUNGA)