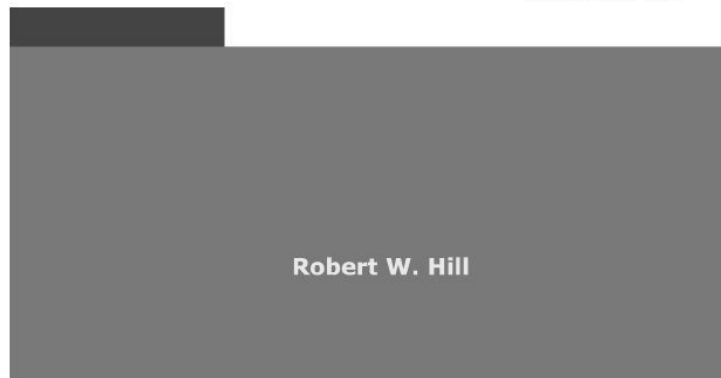




## English Grammar Practice Test **with key**

### Past Continuous

Level A1-A2



#### Introduction and Imprint

The test comes in **two variants**, each of which is provided **with key** and a point-based **marking scheme**. The content corresponds to the **A1 - A2** language proficiency level according to the CEFR.

The test is meant for **English as a foreign language** learners. It can be used for testing and as consolidation material.

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Contents

Variant 1 ..... 5  
Variant 1. Key..... 7  
Variant 2..... 10  
Variant 2. Key..... 12

Past Continuous

Variant 1

1. Complete the sentences with the *past continuous*.

- At 7:45 yesterday she \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book.
- In 2019 my father and I \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Australia.
- It was a warm and beautiful evening. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) and a lot of people \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) in the lake.
- Mom \_\_\_\_\_ (just / finish) lunch when Uncle Jim arrived.
- While \_\_\_\_\_ you and your sister \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) on the ground?
- While I \_\_\_\_\_ (study), my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep).
- The kids \_\_\_\_\_ (play) in the garden when the \_\_\_\_\_ (rain / start) pouring heavily.
- I saw Michelle and Kate in the garden. They \_\_\_\_\_ (plant) flowers.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) on the phone when I opened the door.
- "What were you and the teacher talking to each other about?" - "Oh, they \_\_\_\_\_ (talk).

Mark: \_\_\_ / 12

2. Choose the correct item.

- It was **snowing** / were **snowing**, so we went out to ski.
- I was **runing** / was **running** to catch the bus.
- Was / Were she washing her car when you came home?
- The cowboys were **telling** / were **teling** scary stories to the kids.
- More and more people were **becomming** / were **becoming** vegetarians at that time.
- They were **digging** / were **digging** (excavating) when the policeman searched for the thief.
- Where were **digging** / were **digging** from a building top?
- The girl **fell** and I was **meeting** / were **meeting** (confronted) her at the party.
- Who **is** **meeting** the teacher after school? - Oh, he **was** / **wasn't**.
- We were **standing** / were **standing** at 11 o'clock last night.

Mark: \_\_\_ / 10

3. Complete the questions and negative sentences using the *past continuous*.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Violet / skate) in the park at 2:30 that afternoon?
- Jason and I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / work) the following week.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ (you and Mike / stay) in South Africa?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Ryan / buy) a new laptop when you met him yesterday?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / do) well in December last year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (the dog / walk the village while he was looking at the map)?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (a group of children / walk the course during the walk)?
- The people \_\_\_\_\_ (not / speak) when the teacher started the discussion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Frank / talk / talk with his friends when he was left)?
- They \_\_\_\_\_ (not / watch tennis last night).

Mark: \_\_\_ / 10

4. Fill in the gaps with the *past continuous*.

Yesterday, the weather was terrible. The sky was shrouded in grey clouds and it 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (pour) with rain all day. All the family were trapped at home.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, I 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (play) with my dolls in my bedroom. My mother 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) her favourite TV show while preparing dinner for us and my grandparents who 4) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to visit us later. My father and my little brother 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (draw) some funny pictures and 6) \_\_\_\_\_ (colour) them

in green. She was then 7) \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) on the sofa next to them. She was 8) \_\_\_\_\_ (not / play) any attention to them. Instead she 9) \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) up at the height of speakers when she 10) \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) loudly to the radio. Nobody seemed to go outside.

Suddenly the phone rang. That was my grandfather. He 11) \_\_\_\_\_ (call) to tell us that she was on her way 12) \_\_\_\_\_ (not / want) to leave because of the bad weather.

Mark: \_\_\_ / 12

Total: \_\_\_ / 44

Past Continuous

Variant 2

1. Complete the sentences with the *past continuous*.

- She \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis when she received a text message.
- They were talking to the representative. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not / answer).
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) and then \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) all day yesterday?
- Do you think you'll \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in Edinburgh?
- While David and his friend \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) in the park, they \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) tennis.
- At 2 PM I \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the film.
- Jack \_\_\_\_\_ (not / get) the garden from the \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) with his wife.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) at her brother David during our visit to Missouri.
- What was going on outside on the way home? - Oh, they \_\_\_\_\_ (not / talk).
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) at 7 o'clock last night.

Mark: \_\_\_ / 12

2. Choose the correct item.

- Children weren't playing / weren't playing football on the playground.
- She was't working / was working at 10:10 in the morning.
- Henry looks for his when he was sitting / was sitting a train.
- Was / Were they studying yesterday afternoon?
- I was there when you were yesterday. They were working / were working heavy train.
- Was she not looking well? - Yes, it was / wasn't.
- Is the museum / was sitting / was sitting yesterday.
- She was looking / was looking all day yesterday.
- They are from were attending / were not attending page eleven. At that time you were in the class.
- Before and his colleague was studying / were studying results on the computer when I left the office.

Mark: \_\_\_ / 10

Past Continuous

Variant 1. Key

1.

1. **was reading** (Third-person singular affirmative)
2. **were living** (First-person plural affirmative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in a consonant + -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing.)
3. **was shining; were swimming** (Third-person singular affirmative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in a consonant + -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing. Third person plural affirmative. The last consonant in a one-syllable verb is doubled before adding -ing as the consonant is preceded by a stressed vowel.)
4. **was just finishing** (Third-person singular affirmative. The adverb of time is used between the auxiliary and the main verb with -ing.)

1. **was you and Mike were being** (Second person plural interrogative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing.)
2. **was shining; was sleeping** (First person singular affirmative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -e is made by adding -ing.)
3. **was not / wasn't working** (Third person singular negative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -e is made by adding -ing.)
4. **wasn't shining** (Third person plural affirmative)
5. **wasn't sleeping** (Third person singular affirmative)
6. **was** (Third person plural affirmative, a short answer to a general question)

2.

1. **was snowing** (Third-person singular)
2. **was running** (The last consonant in a one-syllable verb is doubled before adding -ing as the consonant is preceded by a stressed vowel.)
3. **Was** (Third-person singular)
4. **were telling** (Spelling)
5. **were becoming** (Spelling)
6. **were't learning** (Third person plural)
7. **wasn't sleeping** (The last consonant in a one-syllable verb is doubled before adding -ing as the consonant is preceded by a stressed vowel.)
8. **wasn't reading** (First person plural)
9. **wasn't** (Third person singular negative, a short answer to a general question)

10. **wasn't shining** (The -ing form of the main verb that ends in a consonant + -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing.)

3.

1. **Was Violet skating** (Third-person singular interrogative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in a consonant + -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing.)
2. **were not / weren't working** (First-person plural negative)
3. **were you and Mike staying** (Second-person plural interrogative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -y is made by adding -ing.)
4. **Was Ryan buying** (Third-person singular interrogative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -y is made by adding -ing.)
5. **was not / wasn't doing** (First-person singular negative)

6. **Was the dog playing** (Third person singular)
7. **Was a group of children watching** (Third person singular interrogative)
8. **Wasn't she / wasn't painting** (Third person plural negative)
9. **Was the teacher talking** (Third person singular interrogative. The suffix of -ee is used between the subject and the main verb with -ing. The last consonant in a one-syllable verb is doubled before adding -ing as the consonant is preceded by a stressed vowel.)
10. **Wasn't she / wasn't walking** (Third person plural negative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in a consonant + -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing.)

4.

1. **was pouring** (Third-person singular affirmative)
2. **was playing** (First-person singular affirmative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -y is made by adding -ing.)
3. **was watching** (Third-person singular affirmative)
4. **were going** (Third-person plural affirmative)
5. **were drawing** (Third-person plural affirmative)

6. **weren't walking** (Third person plural affirmative. The second auxiliary was is omitted after the negative "weren't" as the negative goes under parts of the sentence.)
7. **wasn't shining** (Third person singular affirmative. The last consonant in a one-syllable verb is doubled before adding -ing as the consonant is preceded by a stressed vowel.)
8. **wasn't she / wasn't painting** (Third person singular negative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in -e is made by adding -ing.)
9. **wasn't shining** (Third person singular affirmative)
10. **wasn't sleeping** (Third person singular affirmative. The -ing form of the main verb that ends in a consonant + -e is made by dropping -e and adding -ing.)