



Simple Past versus Past Progressive

Tutor Annotated Lesson

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the differences between the simple past and the past progressive?

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

STEP 2: Theory

- Conjugate the verb “work” in the simple past and the past progressive tenses in the chart below.
- Also, fill out the keywords for each tense.

TIP

Form	Simple Past	Past Progressive
Affirmative	You <i>worked</i> He <i>worked</i>	You <i>were working</i> He <i>was working</i>
Negative	You <i>didn't work</i> He <i>didn't work</i>	You <i>weren't working</i> He <i>wasn't working</i>
Yes/No Question and Short Answer	<i>Did</i> you <i>work</i> ? Yes, <i>I did</i> <i>Did</i> he <i>work</i> ? No, <i>he didn't</i>	<i>Were</i> you <i>working</i> ? Yes, <i>I was</i> <i>Was</i> he <i>working</i> ? No, <i>he wasn't</i>
Keywords	<i>yesterday, last night</i> <i>in 1985</i> <i>two days ago</i>	<i>while</i> <i>as</i> <i>at 10 p.m.</i>

TIP

USE: Choose the correct verb tense for the given use.

- An action that was in progress in the past when another action happened. *past progressive*
- Two actions in progress at the same time in the past. *past progressive*
- An action in progress at a specific time in the past. *past progressive*
- An action that was completed in the past. *simple past*

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

EXERCISE 1: Point out the keyword(s). Then, fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parenthesis.

1. As I (*drive*) *was driving* to school, I (*see*) *saw* an accident.
 - Ask me what I was doing the last time I saw or had an accident.
2. While we (*wait*) *were waiting* for John, Dia and I (*talk*) *were talking* about our future dreams.
 - When was the last time you were talking about your future?
3. Dia (*sleep*) *was sleeping* at 10 a.m. last Saturday.
 - Ask me what I was doing last Saturday morning.

EXERCISE 2: Match the sentences from Exercise 1 with their past progressive use in the chart below. Just write the number of the sentence.

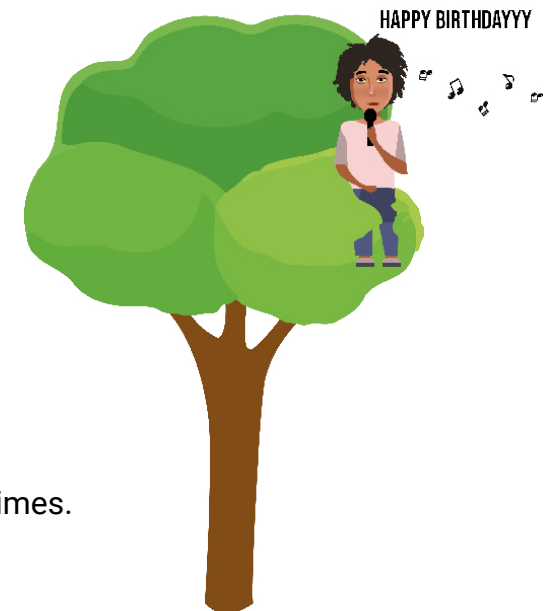
Sentence#	Past Progressive Use
1	A long action was in progress when a short action occurred.
2	Two long actions were in progress at the same time in the past.
3	A long action was in progress at a specific time in the past.

EXERCISE 3: Take turns discussing what you were doing at the following times.

- at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday
- the last time you received good or bad news
- half an hour ago

EXERCISE 4: Use your imagination to say what you or others were doing at the following times.

- Your best friend was at a restaurant with a very beautiful woman / handsome man.
- Your mother was arguing with a police officer outside a restaurant last Saturday.
- You were running through the park dressed as a Marvel character last week.
- You were sitting at the top of a tree in your garden at 1 a.m. and singing "Happy Birthday to You."
- You were climbing through your neighbour's window in your pyjamas at 9 p.m. last night.



STEP 4: Production task

EXERCISE 5: What were the people doing when you came to the party? Look at the picture for one full minute. Then, move the picture away and describe the scene using **the past progressive**.

Example: *The cat was sleeping when I came in.*



STEP 5: Final Review

- What new words did you learn today?
- What are the auxiliary verbs in the past progressive?
was, were
- What do you know now about the past progressive that you didn't know before?

Tutor Note

- Ask "how do you say" questions with the words the tutee does not mention.

Important

- **Write down the words you learned today and study them.**

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2022

Québec 

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Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

TIP

Simple Past versus Past Progressive – Form and Keywords					
Tense	Focus	Simple Past		Past Progressive	
Form	Affirmative	You worked He worked		You were working He was working	
	Negative	You didn't work He didn't work		You weren't working He wasn't working	
	Yes/No Questions and Short Answers	Did you work? Did he work?	Yes, I did No, he didn't	Were you working? Was he working?	Yes, I was No, he wasn't
Keywords		yesterday, last week, in 1985, two days ago		while, as, at 10 p.m.	
Short Answer					
Keywords		yesterday, last night in 1985 two days ago		while as at 10 p.m.	

TIP

Simple Past versus Past Progressive - Use		
Tense	Example	Use
Simple Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I watched a movie yesterday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> used to describe actions that began and ended at a specific time.
Past Progressive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I was watching a movie at 9:30 last night. I was watching a movie when the power went off. (long action) (short action) While I was watching a movie, I was doing my homework. (long action) (long action) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> used to describe an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past used to describe an action that was in progress at the time of another action used to talk about two actions in progress at the same time in the past.

1. As I (**drive**) *was driving* to school, I (**see**) *saw* an accident.

- Ask me what I was doing the last time I saw or had an accident.

2. While we (**wait**) *were waiting* for John, Dia and I (**talk**) *were talking* about our future dreams.

- When was the last time you were talking about your future?

3. Dia (**sleep**) *was sleeping* at 10 a.m. last Saturday.

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