

Continuous Tense Verbs

1. Present Continuous (progressive) Tense

Present continuous tense is used to tell about the ongoing actions, events, or conditions and still not finished.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (is / am/ are) + main verb (ing) + object.

Examples,

I am dancing on the stage.

She is looking at him.

They are practicing on the ground.

You are not coming with us to the picnic.

Exercise: Fill in the blanks with a continuous verb.

1. Are you _____ now?
2. Are you _____ this weekend?
3. Is he _____ at the moment?
4. Is he _____ later today?
5. Is he _____ next year?
6. Who is _____?
7. What are you _____?
8. When is he _____?
9. Where is he _____ next weekend?
10. _____ are you _____ tomorrow?

Practice answering the questions below.

1. Are you staying at home this weekend?
2. Are your coworkers still working at the moment?
3. Are you watching TV later tonight?
4. Are you traveling to the Philippines next year?
5. What are you planning to do tomorrow?

2. Past Continuous (progressive) Tense

The past continuous tense is used to express the occurring circumstance or any continuing action that has happened in the past.

It is used to describe any action which is happening in the past.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (was/were) + verb (ing) + object.

Examples,

I was traveling to Los Angeles to attend a business meeting.

They were playing an act in the annual gathering.

He was not listening to my words.

You were cleaning the hall yesterday after the party.

Exercise: Complete the questions with the past continuous form of the verb.

You can rephrase the questions if needed.

1. When you got sick, (you/eat) enough?
2. There was water everywhere. What (the children/do)?
3. (it/rain) when you left the restaurant?
4. How long (she/live) in London when she found that job?
5. Why (you/study) so hard?
6. Why was the house so messy? What (she/do)?
7. How long (we/wait) when the bus finally arrived?
8. How long (he/play) football when he was injured?
9. (I/work) that day?
10. (she/see) him for long when they moved to Paris?

Practice answering the questions below.

1. What had she been reading?
2. How long had he been watching TV?
3. How long had it been raining?
4. What had we been drinking?
5. Why had they been eating?

3. Future Continuous (progressive) Tense

The future continuous tense is used to explain the ongoing action at a particular instant in the future or happen in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will be + Verb (ing) + object.

Examples,

Randy Orton will be fighting tonight with Roman Reigns.

He will be writing the answers to all the questions in an examination.

She will be singing at tonight's concert.

Malinga will be playing as a captain in this ICC cricket tournament.

Exercise: Complete the questions with the future continuous form of the verb.
You can rephrase the questions if needed.

1. Where (he/ stay) when he is in Panama?
2. Where (they/ play) their next match?
3. (he/ speak) with his advisor this afternoon?
4. When (presenters/ make) their presentations?
5. Why (trains/ run) later on Thursday?
6. What (your friends/ wear) to the dance?
7. I wonder what songs (Madonna/ sing) at the concert.
8. Where (you/ work) after graduation?
9. (pilot/ announce) updates during the flight?
10. How long (your parents/ travel) in Europe this summer?

Practice answering the questions below.

1. What will you be doing today at 7p.m.?
2. What time will you be getting off work today?
3. What will you be doing tomorrow afternoon?
4. Why will they be working late tonight?
5. What will we be eating for dinner tonight?

Exercise: Fill in the blanks with a continuous verb tense.

1. I (read) an interesting novel now.
2. She (stay) with her parents at the moment.
3. This time tomorrow we (celebrate) Raj's birthday.
4. The child (wait) for his parents.
5. I (get) ready when she came.
6. He (leave) in the afternoon.
7. The child (sleep) soundly.
8. I (read) when the lights went out.
9. The boys (play) in the park when it started raining.
10. We (go) to Mexico next summer.
11. The car (go) in for a service next week.
12. Don't phone them now – they (have) dinner.
13. How long have you (learn) English?
14. These days most people (use) email instead of writing letters.
15. It's always (rain) in London.