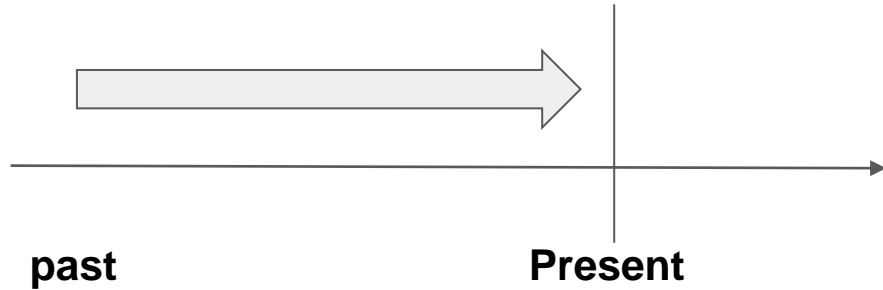


Past Continuous Tense

Past Continuous Tense



The past continuous tense shows a continuous action that began in the past. It is the past tense version of the **present continuous**, which also describes ongoing actions.

Past Continuous Tense: Structure

⌚ The past continuous uses *was* and *were* which is the past tense of *to be*.

The structure:

- + [Subject] + [was/were] + [present participle]
- [Subject] + [wasn't/weren't] + [present participle]
- ? [Was/were] + [subject] + [present participle]

Past Continuous Tenses: THE EXAMPLES

I **was** playing football

You **were** going to the cinema

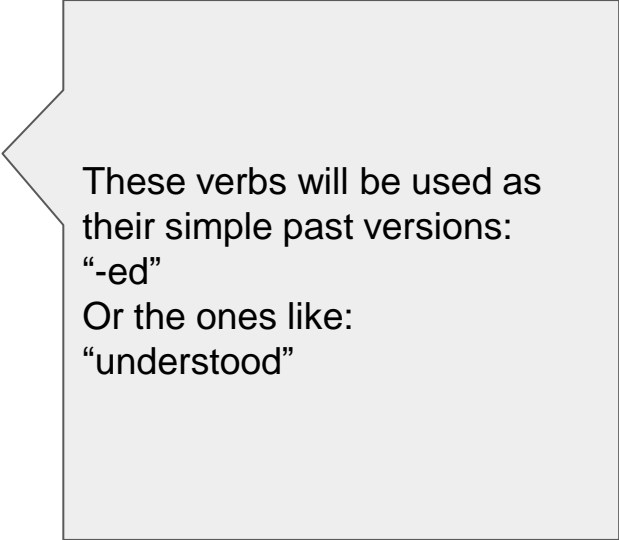
- He understood the assignment

Wait. Then where is the “was/were in this sentence?

As it turns out **stative verbs** are a thing. **Stative verbs** are less like actions and more like **states or feelings**. They describe continual states of mind, such as opinions, needs, or awareness.

Past Continuous Tenses: The Stative Verbs EXAMPLES

- believe
- like
- dislike
- hate
- love
- need
- prefer
- seem
- understand



These verbs will be used as
their simple past versions:
“-ed”
Or the ones like:
“understood”

● Past Continuous Tenses: Some complicated examples (+adverbs)

1. An action in the past that gets interrupted

- They **were sleeping** peacefully **until** the alarm rang.

2. Ongoing actions at a specified time

- **At midnight**, everyone at the party **was** still **having** fun.
- **I was working** as a cashier **in October**.

3. Habitual actions in the past (usually with adverbs like *always*)

- My first year of college, I **was making** spelling mistakes **all the time**.

4. Emphasizing how long a past action took

- I **was trying** to complete the final level **for hours**.

5. Setting the background for a story

- The birds **were singing**, and the sun **was shining**.

THANK YOU