




# CLASS 6



Intermediate Level



Grammar Focus



Interactive Exercises





## What are Modals?

Auxiliary verbs that express ability, possibility, permission, or obligation.

**Can /  
Could**

Ability

**Should /  
Must**

Advice /  
Obligation

**May /  
Might**

Possibility



Example

*"She could speak French when she was young."*

# ↻ Past Simple

## Affirmative

Subject + verb-ed / irregular

*She worked late.*

## Negative

Subject + didn't + base verb

*He didn't call me.*

## Interrogative

Did + subject + base verb?

*Did they finish early?*

### ⚠ Irregular Verbs

go → went    have → had    see → saw    buy → bought

### 🏷 Signal Words

yesterday

last week

in  
2010

ago

when

# 🕒 What is the Past Continuous?



## Past Continuous

Describes an action that was **in progress** at a specific moment in the past.

Also called: Past Progressive



*Think of it as a movie scene paused mid-action — something was happening.*

## Visualize It



***"At 8pm yesterday, she was cooking dinner."***

The action (cooking) was ongoing at that moment (8pm).



# Formation

## Subject + was / were + verb-ing

was → I, He, She, It | were → You, We, They



### Affirmative

Subject + was/were + verb-ing

*I was reading a book.*

*They were playing football.*



### Negative

Subject + was/were + not + verb-ing

**wasn't / weren't**

*She wasn't sleeping.*

*We weren't watching TV.*



### Interrogative

Was/Were + subject + verb-ing?

**Yes, I was. / No, she wasn't.**

*Was he working?*

*Were you listening?*

# Uses of Past Continuous

01



## Action in progress at a past moment

*At 10 o'clock last night, I was studying for my exam.*

02



## Two simultaneous past actions

***While** she was cooking, he was setting the table.*

03



## Background action interrupted by a shorter action

*I was walking to school **when** it started to rain.*



# Past Simple vs Past Continuous



## Past Simple

Completed

- ✓ Completed action
- ✓ Exact time known
- ✓ Series of events

*She cooked dinner at 7pm.*

*He left the office early.*

*They arrived, ate, and left.*



## Past Continuous

Ongoing

- ✓ Ongoing / in-progress action
- ✓ Background / setting the scene
- ✓ Interrupted by another action

*She was cooking dinner at 7pm.*

*He was leaving when I called.*

*They were eating when the phone rang.*



Key Insight

*Past Simple = what happened. Past Continuous = what was happening around that time.*



# Time Expressions



## Signal Words

These time expressions help identify when to use Past Continuous.

**while**

Two simultaneous actions

**when**

Interrupting action

**at [time]  
yesterday / last  
night**

Specific past moment

**while**

*While I was studying, my phone rang.*

**at 9pm last night**

*At 9pm last night, they were watching a film.*



# Fill in the Blanks

**i** Complete the sentences using the **Past Continuous** form of the verb in parentheses.

**1** She (read) a novel when the lights went out.

**2** We (have) dinner at 8pm last night.

**3** The children (play) in the garden all afternoon.

**4** He (not/listen) when the teacher explained the rules.

**5** you (work) at 6pm yesterday?

**6** They (drive) to the airport when it started to snow.



# Error Correction



Find and correct the **grammar mistake** in each sentence.

1 I was study when you called me.

2 She were watching TV at midnight.

3 Was they playing football yesterday?

4 He wasn't went to school last Monday.

5 We was waiting for the bus for two hours.

6 While I cooked, he was washing the dishes.

# ⚡ Interrupted Actions



## The Rule

Use **Past Continuous** for the longer background action and **Past Simple** for the shorter interrupting action.

[was/were + -ing] **WHEN** [simple past]

*"I was sleeping when the alarm went off."*

- was sleeping = background action (PC)
- went off = interrupting action (PS)

*"They were having lunch when the boss called."*

- were having = background action (PC)
- called = interrupting action (PS)

## Timeline

Past Continuous (long action)



'when' introduces the interrupting action.



# Choose the Correct Tense

👉 Circle the correct verb form: **Past Simple** or **Past Continuous**.

- 1 I (**was reading** / **read**) a book when she called.
- 2 He (**was studying** / **studied**) all night and passed the exam.
- 3 While they (**were watching** / **watched**) TV, the power went out.
- 4 She (**was cooking** / **cooked**) dinner at 7pm last night.
- 5 We (**drove** / **were driving**) to the beach when we saw the accident.
- 6 The dog (**barked** / **was barking**) when the postman arrived.

→ Translate these sentences into English using **Past Simple** or **Past Continuous**.

**1** ES Yo estaba leyendo cuando sonó el teléfono.

*Hint: (was reading / rang)*

**2** ES Ellos estaban durmiendo a medianoche.

*Hint: (were sleeping)*

**3** ES ¿Estabas trabajando ayer por la tarde?

*Hint: (Were you working?)*

**4** ES Mientras ella cocinaba, él ponía la mesa.

*Hint: (was cooking / was setting)*

**5** ES No estábamos escuchando la radio.

*Hint: (weren't listening)*

**6** ES El bebé estaba llorando cuando llegué a casa.

*Hint: (was crying / arrived)*



# Create Your Own Sentences

Write 3 sentences using Past Continuous. Use the prompts below:

**At 7am this morning, I...**

*(morning activity)*

**While my friend was..., I...**

*(two actions)*


**I was ... when suddenly...**

*(interrupted action)*



**Model Answer**

*"At 7am this morning, I was having breakfast and listening to music."*

  
**Share your sentences with the class!**

Be creative — any topic works.



# Summary & Homework



## What We Learned Today

- ✓ Past Continuous = **was/were** + **verb-ing**
- ✓ Used for: actions in progress, simultaneous actions, interrupted actions
- ✓ Key words: **while, when, at [time]**
- ✓ Past Simple = completed action; Past Continuous = ongoing action



## Homework

1. Write 5 sentences about what you were doing last weekend (Past Continuous).
2. Write 3 sentences about an interrupted action using 'when' or 'while'.
3. Review irregular verbs list for next class.

Due: Next Class



*Great work today! Keep practising — language learning is a journey.*  
See you in CLASE 7!