

Past Continuous

Form

	Positive	Example
1	S₁ + was + V. (ing) + comp. S ₁ : I, He, She, It, singular name	He was working.
2	S₂ + were + V. (ing) + comp. S ₂ : We, You, They, plural name	They were working.

	Negative	Example
1	S₁ + was not + V. (ing) + comp.	He was not working.
2	S₂ + were not + V. (ing) + comp.	They were not working.

Note: The auxiliary verbs in the Past Continuous Tense are: was & were.

Questions

WH questions	WH word + aux. V + S + V(ing) + comp?
Yes/no questions	aux. V + S + V(ing) + comp?

Example: WH questions

What	was	I / he / she / it / singular name	doing?
	were	we / you / they / plural name	

Example: Yes/no questions

Was	I / he / she / it / singular name	watching TV?
Were	we / you / they / plural name	

Use

We often use the Past Continuous in sentences with the Past Simple. The Past Continuous refers to longer, background activities, while the Past Simple refers to shorter, completed actions.

Past Perfect**Form**

The form of the Past Perfect is the same for all types of subjects.

Positive

	S + had + V (p.p.) + comp.	
Rule	S: I, They, We, You, He, She, It, any type of name V (past participant): adding (ed) to verbs or irregular verbs.	
Example	I He/She/It We You They any type of name	had won the game.

Negative

Rule	S + had not + V (p.p.) + comp.	
Example	I He/She/It We You They any type of name	had not won the game.

Questions**WH questions**

Rule	WH word + had + S + V(p.p.) + comp?			
Example	Where	had	you he they ⋮	travelled last year?

Yes/no questions

Rule	Had + S + V.(p.p.) + comp?
Example	Had he already left?

Note: The auxiliary verb (aux. V) in the Past Perfect tense is: had.

Use

The Past Perfect is used to indicate clearly that one action in the past happened before another action in the past.

Past tenses in the passive

Form

Past Simple Passive	was / were + V(p.p.)
Past Continuous Passive	was / were + being + V(p.p.)
Past Perfect Passive	had been + V(p.p.)

Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.

Examples

These houses were built in 1985.
The bridge was being reshaped when it collapsed.
The letter didn't arrive because it had been sent to my old address.