

Past Progressive

1. Use of the *Past Progressive*

1.1. actions were in progress at special time in the past

Peter **was reading** a book yesterday evening.

1.2. two actions were happening at the same time (the actions do not influence each other)

Anne **was writing** a letter while Steve **was reading** the New York Times.

1.3. together with *Simple Past*

While we **were sitting** at the breakfast table, the telephone **rang**.

1.4. repeated actions irritating the speaker (with *always, constantly, forever*)

Andrew **was** always **coming** late.

2. Signal words

while

3. Form

to **be (was, were)** + **infinitive** + **-ing**

4. Examples

4.1. Affirmative sentences in the *Past Progressive*

Long forms	Contracted forms
I was playing football.	not possible
You were playing football.	
He was playing football.	

4.2. Negative sentences in the *Past Progressive*

Long forms	Contracted forms
I was not playing football.	I wasn't playing football.
You were not playing football.	You weren't playing football.
He was not playing football.	He wasn't playing football.

4.3. Questions in the *Past Progressive*

Long forms	Contracted forms
Was I playing football?	not possible

Long forms	Contracted forms
Were you playing football?	
Was he playing football?	
