

# Lesson 40

## Continuous Tense

**Definition:** A tense of verbs used in describing action that is on-going. Also called as progressive or imperfect tense.

Pronouns	Active Voice		
	Sequence: Noun + To be + Present Participle		
	Present	Past	Future
I	am speaking	was speaking	shall be speaking
he	is speaking	was speaking	will be speaking
she	is speaking	was speaking	will be speaking
it	is speaking	was speaking	will be speaking
you	are speaking	were speaking	will be speaking
we	are speaking	were speaking	shall be speaking
they	are speaking	were speaking	will be speaking

Pronouns	Passive Voice		
	Sequence: Noun + To be + being + Past Participle		
	Present	Past	Future
I	am being spoken	was being spoken	X
he	is being spoken	was being spoken	
she	is being spoken	was being spoken	
it	is being spoken	was being spoken	
you	are being spoken	were being spoken	
we	are being spoken	were being spoken	
they	are being spoken	were being spoken	

### Maker words in Present Continuous Tense

currently	Viola Davis is currently working on the role of Annalise Keating.
now	I am working now.
right now	I am writing a letter right now.
at present	The economic situation is changing rapidly at present.
at this moment / at the moment	At this moment they are looking for our car.
still	He is still watching for my cat

### Maker words in Past Continuous Tense

all morning / afternoon / evening	What were you doing all morning yesterday?
all day / night	What were you doing all day yesterday?
all week / month / year	What were you doing all week?
for hours / days / weeks / months / years	I was looking for you for hours.
the whole time	He was shouting at her the whole time.
while	John hurt his back while he was working in the garden.
when	I was falling asleep when I heard a strange noise under my bed.
yesterday	What was Peter doing yesterday at 7 o'clock?
tonight	It was snowing tonight.
as	As I was leaving my room, I looked at the clock on the wall.
just as	The telephone rang just as I was leaving.
all night long	I was working all night long.
at lunchtime	I was looking through the papers at lunchtime.
at sunset / at sunrise	We were walking at sunset.
last Christmas	They were cooking this time last Christmas
from 4 till 6	What were you doing yesterday from 4 till 6?
for X hours	We were looking for you for X hours.

during this time	I was cooking during this time yesterday.
at X o'clock last Wednesday	at X o'clock last Wednesday I was watching a film.
this Summer	What were your planning for this summer?
all the time	My cousin was calling me all the time.
always	We were always spending so much time in traffic.
constantly	My boss was constantly phoning me in my last job.
continuously / continually	Lots of us were working at the office continuously.
forever	She was forever losing her keys.
perpetually	He was perpetually trying interrupt my speech.
the entire time	The entire time he was waiting for you.
at this time	I was boating at this time yesterday.

### Maker words in Future Continuous Tense

during next week	I shall be working during next week.
during that time	I will playing football during that time.
while	John hurt his back while he was working in the garden.
the whole year	I will be studying Spanish the whole year.
this time tomorrow	They will be preparing their lesson this time tomorrow.
at midnight	We will be waiting for the plane at midnight.
for a year	James will be reading this roman for a year.
at noon	She will be meeting Jane tomorrow at noon.
for a week	She will be planning for a week.
tomorrow at 11 o'clock	Tomorrow at 11 o'clock I shall be working in the garden.
all day long	He will be working in the office all day long.
the whole morning	Tomorrow I shall be working the whole morning.
next Sunday	We will be leaving for New York next Sunday.

## Stative verbs

Stative verbs are the verbs you cannot use in the past continuous tense. As we explain in our grammar guide, there is a certain type of verb that cannot be used in any continuous tense, including the past continuous tense. These are called stative verbs, also known as state-of-being verbs or, fittingly, non-continuous verbs. Stative verbs are less like actions and more like states or feelings. They describe continual states of mind, such as opinions, needs, or awareness. Some of the most common examples of stative verbs include:

- ❖ believe
- ❖ dislike
- ❖ hate
- ❖ involve
- ❖ know
- ❖ like
- ❖ love
- ❖ need
- ❖ prefer
- ❖ realize
- ❖ seem
- ❖ understand
- ❖ want

**INCORRECT:** I was understanding math class until we started fractions.

**CORRECT:** I understood math class until we started fractions.

**Test:** [https://www.grammar-monster.com/tests/progressive\\_tense\\_test.htm](https://www.grammar-monster.com/tests/progressive_tense_test.htm)