

1.

Past Continuous Explained (I)

I was working.

It **was** snowing.
The sun **was** not shining.

Past
Continuous.
Positive and
Negative
Examples.

She **was** running.
She **was** not cycling.

The children **were** drinking.
They **were** not eating.

The girl **was** playing the guitar.
She **was** not playing the flute.

The airplane **was** landing.
It **was** not taking off.



He **was** painting.
He **was** not resting.

The past continuous tense is..

I, you, he, she, it,
we, they

was or **were**,

walking.
verb + ing

1.

Affirmative (yes)

I was typing.
 You were riding.
 He was painting.
 She was cleaning.
 It was eating.
 We were swimming.
 They were going.

Negative (no)

I was not typing.
 You were not riding.
 He was not cleaning.
 It was not eating.
 We were not swimming.
 They were not going.

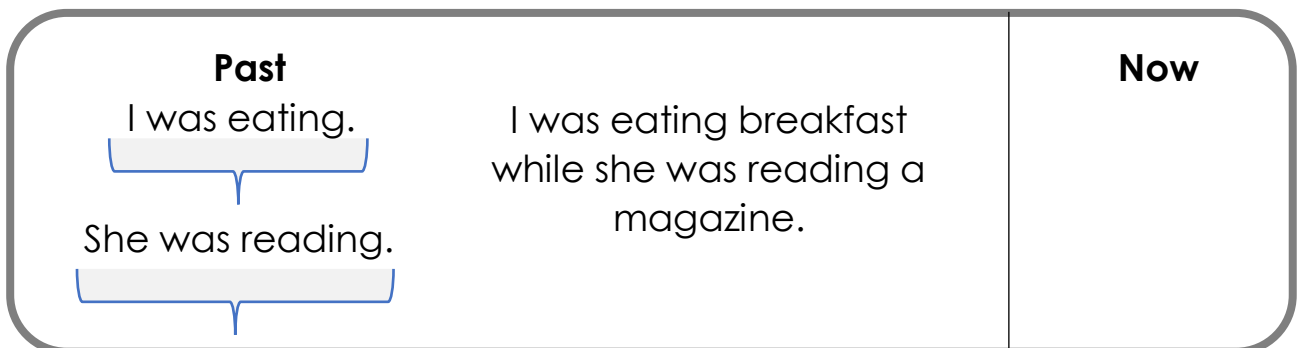
Question

Was I typing?
 Were you riding?
 Was he painting?
 Was she cleaning?
 Was it barking?
 Were we swimming?
 Were they going?

1

A continuous action happening in the past.

2

Two or more continuous actions happening at the same time in the past.

3

A continuous action (past continuous) and a short action (past simple) happening at the same time.

Past		Now
I was eating.	I was eating when John came in.	
John came in.	When John came in, I was eating.	
	(The continuous action (ing) is interrupted by the short action.)	

4

Repeated actions irritating the speaker. (with always, forever, and constantly)

Past	Now
Frank was always asking silly questions.	

Remember that the dependent clause can come before or after the independent clause. When a sentence begins with a dependent, use a comma.

They were barbecuing when the storm hit.

When the storm hit, they were barbecuing.

What does **'continuous'** mean?

'Continuous' means the action **started earlier, is still going on as we speak and will stop later.** (continuous or ongoing)

Some Examples of a continuous action.

1. A continuous action in the present.



I started swimming earlier. **I am swimming** right now. I'll stop swimming later.



I started running earlier. **I'm running** right now. I'll stop running later.



I started cleaning earlier. **I'm cleaning** right now. I'll stop cleaning later.




Here is an example of an action that is **not** continuous.

"I lock the door."

Don't say "I'm locking the door."

This is not a continuous action because the actual locking is only a 'click'.

2. Now let's put this picture in the past continuous.

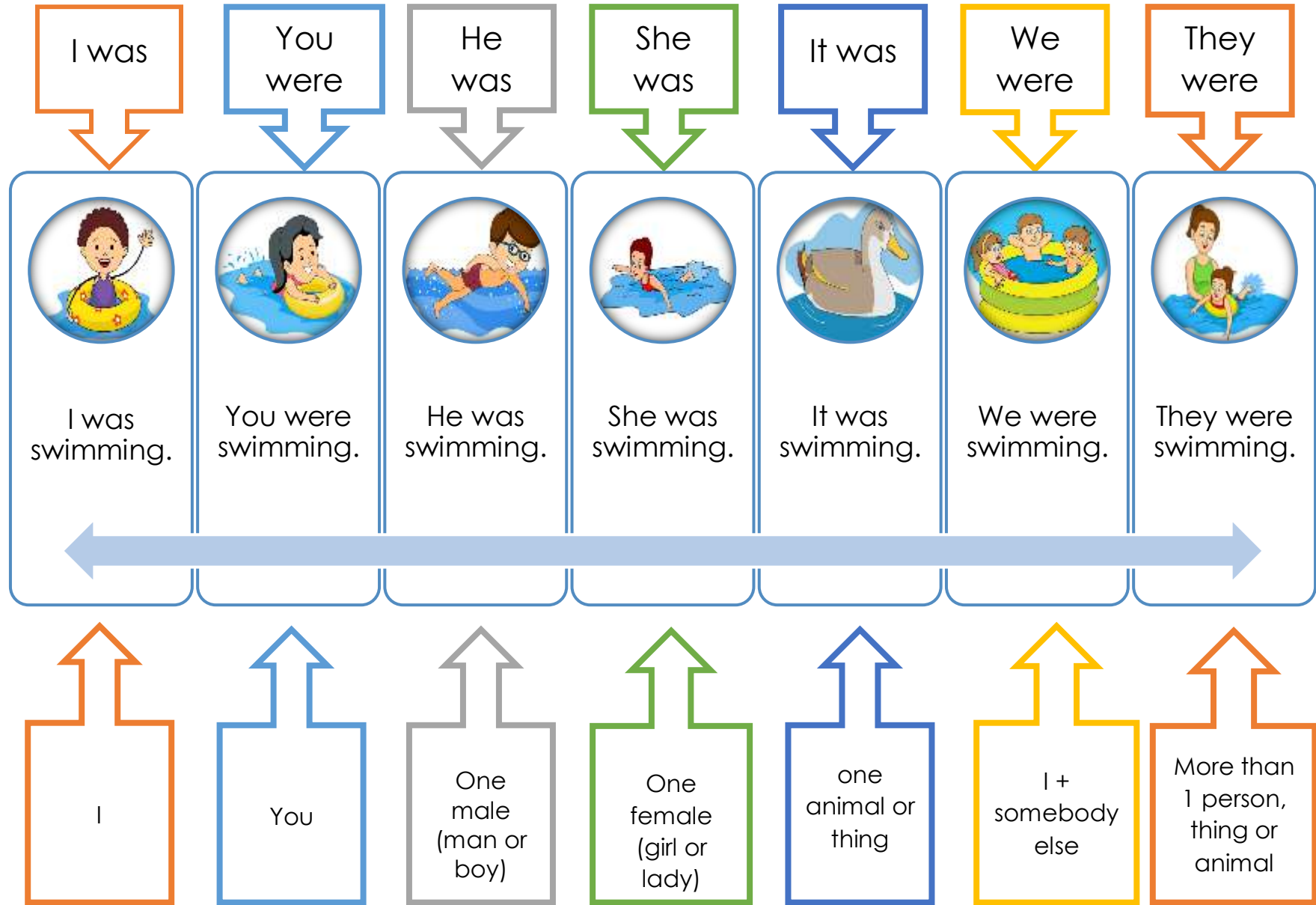
<p>Past continuous</p>  <p>I was swimming.</p>	<p>Present</p>
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More on the Past Continuous Tense on the next pages.



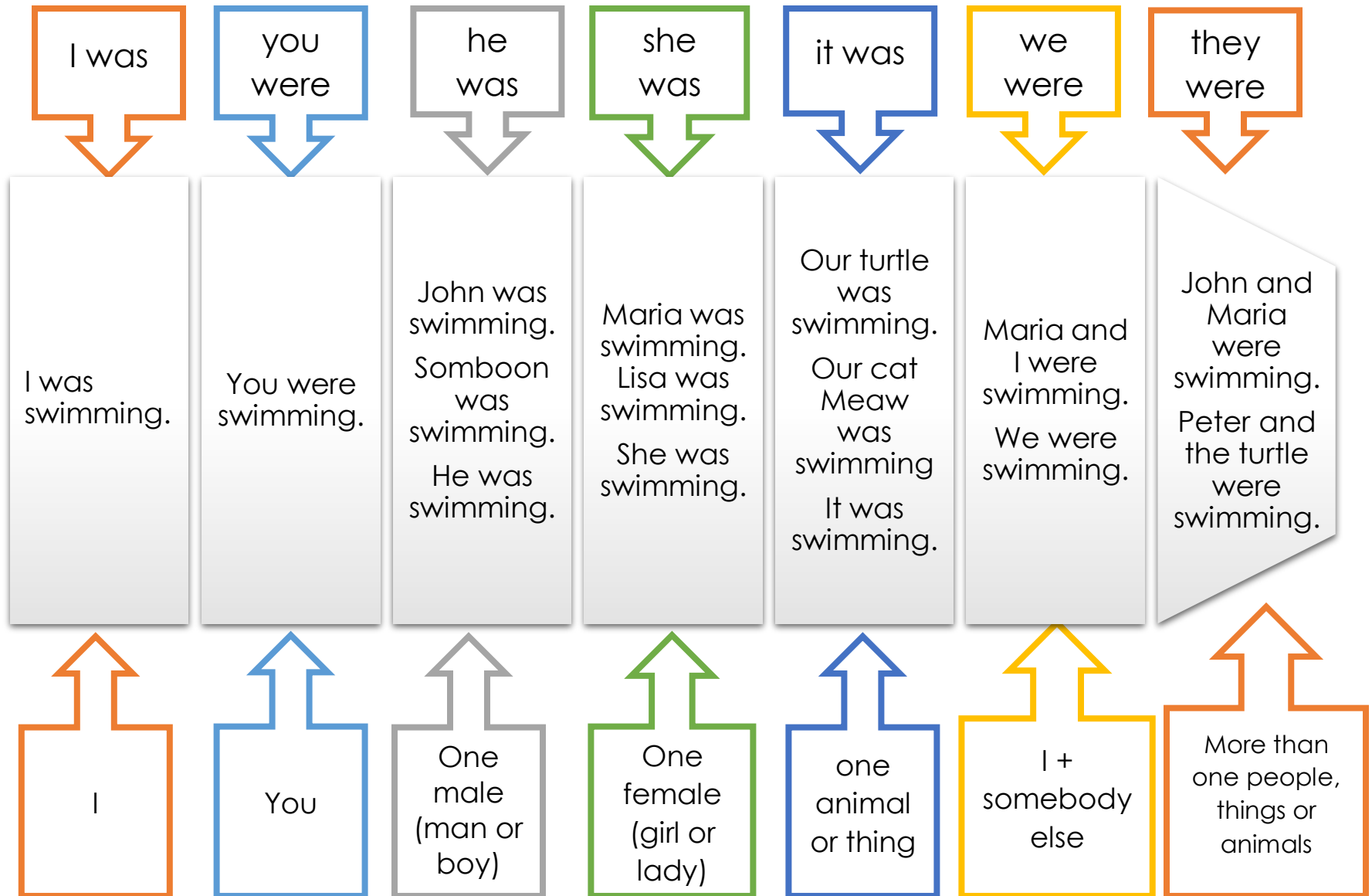
6.

Chart with Pronouns



7.

Chart with Names



7.

Chart with Names



The spelling rules of the continuous tense

1. Just add **ing** to the basic verb

work	working
play	playing
see	seeing
go	going

2. If the verb ends in consonant + stressed vowel + consonant: double the last letter.

stop	stopping
run	running
begin	beginning

3. If the verb ends in ie, change ie to y.

lie	lying
die	dying

4. If the verb ends in vowel + consonant + e, delete the e.

come	coming
mistake	mistaking

Vowels: a e i o u

Consonants: b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z

1. yes	2. yes, short	3. no	4. no, short	5. question	6. answer: yes	7. answer: no
I was working.	--	I was not working.	I wasn't jogging.	Was I walking?	Yes, I was.	No, I was not.
You were working.	--	You were not swimming.	You weren't cooking.	Were you printing?	Yes, you were.	No, you were not.
He was working.	--	He was not working.	He wasn't learning.	Was he sleeping?	Yes, he was.	No, he was not.
She was working.	--	She was not swimming.	She wasn't coming.	Was she putting on make-up?	Yes, she was.	No, she was not.
It was working.	--	It was not working.	It wasn't working.	Was it hunting?	Yes, it was.	No, it was not.
We were working.	--	We were not swimming.	We weren't studying.	Were we partying?	Yes, we were.	No, we were not.
They were working.	--	They were not working.	They weren't cleaning.	Were they selling?	Yes, they were.	No, they were not.

1. yes	2. yes, short	3. no	4. no, short	5. question	6. answer: yes	7. answer: no
I _____ _____.	--	I _____ _____.	I _____ _____.	_____ _____	Yes, _____ _____.	No, _____ _____.
You _____ _____.	--	_____ _____.	_____ _____.	_____ _____	_____ _____.	_____ _____.
He _____ _____.	--	_____ _____.	_____ _____.	_____ _____	_____ _____.	_____ _____.
She _____ _____.	--	_____ _____.	_____ _____.	_____ _____	_____ _____.	_____ _____.
It _____ _____.	--	_____ _____.	_____ _____.	_____ _____	_____ _____.	_____ _____.
We _____ _____.	--	_____ _____.	_____ _____.	_____ _____	_____ _____.	_____ _____.
They _____ _____.	--	_____ _____.	_____ _____.	_____ _____	_____ _____.	_____ _____.

Comparing the Past Simple to the Past Continuous

Past Simple

There is no connection with the present.

Use time markers such as:

when

ago

last

the day before
yesterday

Past

John ate
lunch.

Present

Past Continuous 1

Was or were +
verb + ing

A continuous action in the past interrupted by a short action in the past.

Use: **when** and
while

Past

I was eating
when John
came in.

present

Past Continuous 2

Two continuous actions happening at the same time in the past.

Use: **when** and
while

Past

I was reading
while she was
writing.

Present

12.

Past Continuous, Worksheet 1

1. swim, I

I was swimming.

2. write, they

They were writing.

3. eat, she

_____.

4. meet, we

_____.

5. birds, watch, it, the,

_____.

6. exercise, he

_____.

7. fall from the stairs, it

_____.

_____.

8. visit New York, we

_____.



9. play football, they

_____.

10. play the trombone, we

_____.

11. turn around, she

_____.

12. sleep, we

_____.

13. drive, he

_____.

14. e-mail, they

_____.

15. learn, she

_____.

16. cook, I

_____.

12.

Past Continuous, Worksheet 1

13. With worksheet 3 Past Continuous, Worksheet 2, RAINBOW OF EDUCATION

Mr. Frederichs	Time	Ms. Frederichs
shaved	07:00-7:15	make breakfast
shower	7:15-7:20	make breakfast
have breakfast	8:00-8:30	have breakfast
do office work	9:00-12:00	teach history at school
have lunch	12:00-1:00	have lunch
meet with a client	1:00-2:00	teach science
visit showroom	2:00-3:00	have a Christmas party at school
check the cash register	3:00-4:00	have a Christmas party at school
inform the employees	4:00-5:00	go shopping
play the piano at home.	5:30-6:00	prepare dinner
have dinner	6:30-7:00	have dinner
clean the bungalow	7:00-9:00	clean the bungalow
watch 'Dances with Wolves'	09:00-11:00	Watch 'Dances with Wolves'
fall asleep	11:00	fall asleep

With worksheet 2

07:05

• 1. Ms. Frederich *was making breakfast.*

07:10

• 2. Mr. Frederichs _____.

07:15

• 3. Mr. Frederichs _____.

08:10

• 4. Mr. and Ms. Frederichs _____.

09:30

• 5. Mr. Frederichs _____.

11:05

• 6. Ms. Frederichs _____.

12:30

• 7. Mr. and Ms. Frederichs _____.

1:30

• 8. Mr. Frederichs _____.

1:45

• 9. Ms. Frederichs _____.

3:00

• 10. Ms. Frederichs _____.

6:45

• 11. Mr. and Ms. Frederichs _____.

10:00

• 12. Mr. and Ms. Frederichs _____.

Transform the pieces of text to one past continuous/past simple new sentence.

They were talking about rock music when the concert started.

1. about, rock music, talk, they

the, concert, when, start

2. the, lunch, have, principal,

ring, fire alarm when, the

3. Mary, wear, sweater, black, a

I, meet, her, when

4. test, the, students, take, grammar, a

classroom, teacher, the, leave, when, the

5. dog, I, feed, my

accident, terrible, when, the, happen

6. stop, Jack, suddenly, talk

in, Mary, when, come

7. swim, I,

is, I, open, realized, when, that, the gate

8. Jerry and I, dinner, have, together

when, the princess's death, be announce

9. play, the, actors, rehears, the

old, stage, fall, the, on, when, chandelier, the

10. dealers, results, discuss, the, sales, the

showroom, enter, the, when, director, the,

11. take, a, test, students, the,

attack, their, heart, has, teacher, a, when

12. Maria, birthday, her, celebrate

when, leave, Copenhagen, I

Past continuous or Past Simple tense.

1. They _____ (drive) very fast when the police officer _____ (stop) them.
2. He _____ (get lost) while he _____ (walk) in the woods.
3. I _____ (fall asleep) while _____ (study) at my desk.
4. She _____ (interrupt) him while he _____ (speak).
5. While I _____ (take) a shower, the telephone suddenly _____ (ring).
6. The children _____ (go) to bed after the news last night. They _____ (sleep) like roses until 9:30am.
7. Belinda almost _____ (fall) asleep while she _____ (watch) TV.
8. He _____ (try) to be brave when he was taken hostage.
9. Ruslan _____ (be) in charge of the office while his boss _____ (is) away.
10. We _____ (have) dinner at the Chinese restaurant last Friday night. While we _____ (eat), the Christmas tree _____ (fall over).
11. _____ (you see) the woman who _____ (wear) a beautiful purple dress?
12. While I _____ (clean) my room, I _____ (happen) to find an old photograph of my father.
13. The trade balance _____ (improve) last year while imports _____ (remain) steady.
14. The teenager _____ (smash) his car into a tree while he _____ (flee) from the police.
15. What _____ (do) Andrew _____ when his wife _____ (come) into the café?

Monday, January 27th, 2009

That Monday _____ (is) the second day of our scout camp in the Teutoburger Forest in the German state of lower Saxony.

All boy scouts and girl guides were gathered for the evening activity.

Their parents were also invited and _____ (arrive) by bus at 7pm.

When the program _____ (start), the camp fire had already been ignited.

At first, I _____ (want not, go) there because I _____ (feel well, not). However, at about 8pm, just before the evening program _____ (begin), I _____ (decide) to go.

The atmosphere was great and some groups _____ (sing) scout songs.

The flag was hoisted while we _____ (stand) straight.

Everybody was saluted by the camp leader who _____ (sit) in a jeep.

The campfire was part of a strict day program that we _____ (follow).

While our scouting band _____ (play) a medley of famous songs, the president of my country surprisingly _____ (arrive) to join us. His son _____ (be) a boy scout in our group.

He _____ (open) the festivities with a trumpet hymn that he _____ (play) himself.

While we _____ (eat) grilled pork, a huge firework display _____ (light up) the sky.

Later in the evening, after our parents had left, there _____ (be) a closing ceremony.

18.

Past Continuous, Worksheet 7

1. A truck _____ (drive) on a quiet country road when it was stopped by a motorcycle cop.
2. I _____ (feel, not) uneasy when I _____ (read) the letter.
3. I _____ (look) for a hotel when I _____ (see) you.
4. While _____ (he play), he _____ (dislocate) his collarbone.
5. What _____ (do, you) when it _____ (begin) to rain?
6. He _____ (scared) when the monkey _____ (start) to scream.
7. A Mr. Sato _____ (come) to visit you while you _____ (be) out.
8. I was used to studying when I _____ (be) a student.
9. He _____ (take) his heels when he _____ (see) a policeman.
10. I _____ (work) on Mr. Woods farm when I _____ (be) young.
11. While I _____ (wait) for the bus, I _____ (witness) a traffic accident.
12. Mariska _____ (sleep) when Fritz _____ (ring) the doorbell.
13. Who was it that _____ (read) my diary while I _____ (be) out?
14. Are you sure nothing _____ (happen) when you _____ (sleep)?
15. While he _____ (walk) down a street, he _____ (run) into an old friend of his.

18.

19.

Past Continuous, Worksheet 7

1. When I _____ the painting, I _____ delicious grapes.

1. was starting 2. were starting 3. started

4. was eating 5. were eating 6. ate

2. While I _____, I _____ to music.

1. was painting 2. were painting 3. painted

4. was listening 5. were listening 6. listened

3. While I _____, I _____ my brain a lot.

1. was painting 2. were painting 3. painted

4. was using 5. were using 6. used

4. In the painting, there _____ tree doctors who _____

1. was being 2. were being 3. were

4. was talking 5. were talking 6. talked

5. and a picture of a guy who _____ an airplane.

1. was flying 2. were flying 3. flew

19.

The ski accident

1. Reading

Last Friday I witnessed a ski accident while I was standing on a small platform, waiting for the next chairlift. The sun was shining abundantly and was strongly reflecting off the snow.

It was rather busy on the slopes. Everybody had to be careful and follow the priority rules to avoid nasty accidents.

I saw that a woman who was skiing on the slopes, suddenly reduced speed and stopped.

Instead of quickly leaving the slopes and making way for others, she remained where she was. To make matters worse, she started talking to a passerby.

I saw that a man who was skiing behind her couldn't stop in time or go around the woman.

Before I could warn her to leave the slopes immediately, the man bumped into the woman.

The woman's right leg was severely wounded. It had a deep cut.

The man could stand up slowly and seemed to be ok. He had taken off his skis and was stumbling around. By then a crowd was gathering. Some people were watching from a distance, and others were helping the injured woman. Then the ambulance arrived.

The paramedics put the injured woman on a stretcher and drove her to the hospital.

Page 12.

3 She was eating. 4 We were meeting. 5 It was watching. 6 He was exercising. 7 It was falling from the stairs. 8 We were visiting New York. 9 They were playing football. 10 We were playing the trombone. 11. She was turning around. 12 We were sleeping. 13 He was driving. 14 They were e-mailing. 15 She was learning. 16 I was cooking.

Page 14.

2 was shaving.
3 was taking a shower.
4 were having breakfast.
5 was doing office work.
6 was teaching history at school.
7 were having lunch.
8 was meeting with a client.
9 was teaching science.
10 was having a Christmas party at school.
11 were having dinner.
12 were watching 'Dances with Wolves'.

Page 15.

2 The principal was having lunch when the fire alarm rang.
3 Mary was wearing a black sweater when I met her.
4 The students were taking a grammar test when the teacher left the classroom.
5 I was feeding my dog when the terrible accident happened.
6 Jack suddenly stopped talking when Mary came in.
7 I was swimming when I realized that the gate was open.
8 Jerry and I were having dinner together when the princess's death was announced.
9 The actors were rehearsing the play when the old chandelier fell on the stage.
10 The dealers were discussing the sales results when the director entered the showroom.
11. The students were taking a test when their teacher had a heart attack.
12 Maria was celebrating her birthday when I left Copenhagen.

Page 16.

1. were driving, stopped 2 got lost, was walking 3 fell asleep, studying 4 interrupted, was speaking 5 was taking, rang 6 went, slept 7 fell, was watching 8 tried, 9 was, was 10 had , were eating, fell over 11 Did you see, was wearing 12 was cleaning, happened 13 improved, remained 14 smashed, was fleeing 15 was Andrew doing, came

Page 17.

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The flag was hoisted while we were standing straight.

Everybody was saluted by the camp leader who was sitting in a jeep.

The campfire was part of a strict day program that we were following.

While our scouting band was playing a medley of famous songs, the president of my country surprisingly arrived to join us. His son was a boy scout in our group.

He opened the festivities with a trumpet hymn that he played himself.

While we were eating grilled pork, a huge firework display lit up the sky.

Later in the evening, after our parents had left, there was a closing ceremony.

Page 18.

1 was driving, 2 didn't feel, was reading 3 was looking, saw 4 he was playing, dislocated 5 were you doing, began 6 was scared, started 7 came, were 8 was 9 was taking, saw 10 worked, was 11 was waiting, witnessed 12 was sleeping, rang 13 read, was 14 happened, were sleeping 15 was walking, ran

Page 19.

- 1 3 and 4
- 2 1 and 4
- 3 1 and 6
- 4 3 and 5
- 5 1