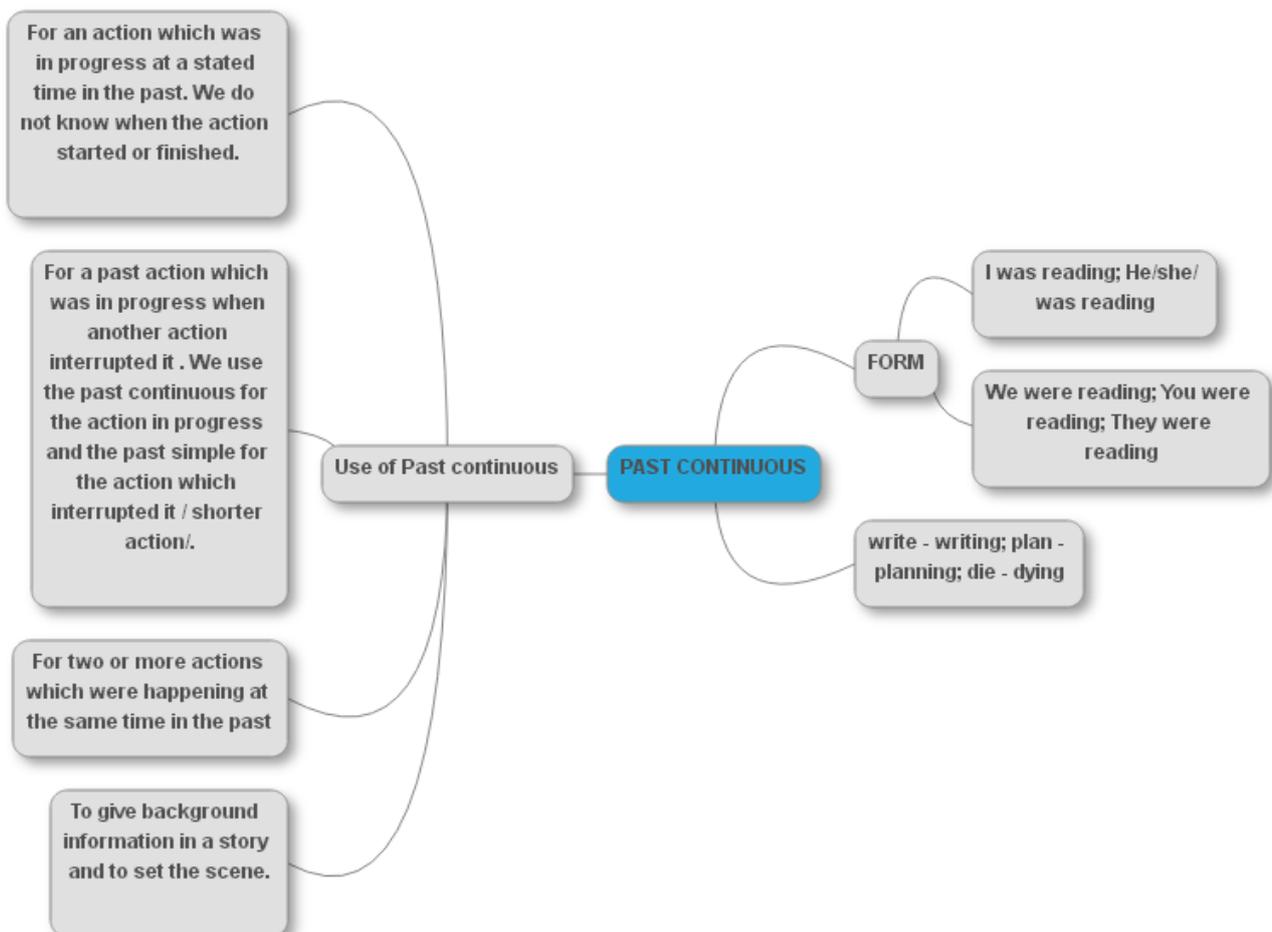


# Past Continuous

1. I **was playing** tennis yesterday at 5 pm.
2. At 9 o'clock last night **we were** watching TV.
3. In the 1990s few people **were using** mobile phones.
  
4. She **was cooking** dinner when the doorbell **rang**.
5. I **was making** a presentation in front of 500 people when the microphone **stopped** working.
6. They **were still waiting** for the plane when I **spoke** to them
  
7. David **was reading** a book while Carla **was watching** TV.
8. Tom **was having** a shower while Jane **was speaking** on the phone.
9. Patrick **was skiing** while Jane **was talking** to Kate.
  
10. The snow **was falling** heavily as Mary **was walking** in the park.
11. It **was raining** cats and dogs while Jim **was travelling** in the train.

We use the past continuous :

- For an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished.
- For a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it . We use the past continuous for the action in progress and the past simple for the action which interrupted it / shorter action/.
- For two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past.
- To give background information in a story and to set the scene.



Fill-in the gaps of the following conversations with the correct verb form .

A: How .....you.....(break) the window?

B: I .....(play) football and the ball.....(hit) the window accidentally.

A: .....you.....(see) John at the party last night?

B: Oh yes! he.....(dance) with Jane when I.....(see) him

A: What .....you.....(do) at midnight last night?

B: I.....(sleep)

A: I wonder how he.....(break) his left arm yesterday.

B: He .....(paint) the walls of his bedroom when he suddenly.....(fall) off the ladder.

A: Why.....she.....(have) an accident last week?

B: Because she.....(drive) very fast and she.....(lose) control of her car and eventually she.....(hit) a big tree.

A: Why.....(not) you.....(answer) my call an hour ago?

B: Because I.....(have) a bath.

A: What.....Terry.....(do) when you .....(see) him?

B: He .....(study) for his English exam.

A: What .....they.....(do) when the power .....(go) off suddenly?

B: They.....(watch) TV.

A:.....it.....(rain) when you.....(get) up?

B: No. It .....(snow).

A: Where .....you.....(go) when I .....(see) you last week?

B: We.....(go) to the cinema?

A: Oh nice! What.....(be) the movie like?

B: Boring! I.....(fall) asleep in the middle of the film while I.....  
(watch) it.

## Past Simple or Past Continuous?

1. While Tony..... (watch) a DVD, Alan..... (listen) to his favourite radio show.
2. Nelly..... (get) home,..... (turn) the computer on and..... (check) her emails.
3. The burglar..... (break) into the house,..... (steal) the money and..... (leave) without a trace.
4. Just a few students..... (listen) while the teacher..... (explain) the lesson.
5. While they..... (do) a sightseeing tour, my friends and I..... (lie) on the beach.
6. She..... (wake) up and..... (look) at her watch.
7. When the doorbell.....(ring), they .....(have) coffee in the garden.
8. He .....(have) breakfast when she.....(come).
9. Eric .....(wait) in the car while Caroline.....(do) the shopping.
10. When she.....(feed) the doggies, he .....(take) some photos.
11. When they.....(come) into the office, the boss.....(wait) for them.
12. While John.....(sleep), they.....(have) a barbecue in the garden.
13. When the plane.....(arrive) we.....(wait) at the airport.
14. While my mother and father.....(clean) home, my sister.....(do) ironing.