

# The PAST CONTINUOUS

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Quale forma del paradigma si usa?

to **PLAY** (= giocare)      played      played  
to **GO** (= andare)      went      gone

Come si costruisce questo tempo?

Con il passato del verbo "essere" (**was/were**) seguito dalla forma **-ing** del verbo:

es. to play (=cantare)      →      *I **was playing**, you **were playing**...*

Cosa esprime questo tempo verbale?

azione **in svolgimento** in un momento passato  
azione in svolgimento durante la quale interviene/avviene un'altra azione

Da quali espressioni è accompagnato?

Da espressioni di **tempo determinato**:

**at** + ora

es. *at 7 a.m., at 8 o'clock...*

**in** + anno / mese

es. *in 1984, in July...*

**on** + giorno

es. *on Monday, on Wednesday...*

**last ...** (= lo scorso ...)

es. *last week, last Sunday, last year, ...*

**... ago** (= ... fa)

es. *an hour ago, four days ago...*

**yesterday** (= ieri)

Da espressioni che introducono **l'idea di azione in svolgimento**:

**while /as...** (= mentre...)

**during...** (= durante)

Come si utilizza?

Spesso si utilizza **abbinato ad una frase con il simple past**:

es. **While** he **was having** a shower **the phone rang**.  
*Mentre si faceva la doccia squillò il telefono.*

Come si risponde in forma breve?

**Yes, soggetto + was/were.**

**No, soggetto + was/were not (wasn't / weren't).**

## La struttura GRAMMATICALE

Forma AFFERMATIVA

Es.	Soggetto	+	was (I, he, she, it)	+	-ing form	+	oggetto/ luogo	+	tempo deter.
			were (we, you, they)						
	She		was		playing		tennis		yesterday.

Forma INTERROGATIVA

Es.	Was	+	soggetto	+	-ing form	+	oggetto/ luogo	+	tempo deter.		
	Were										
	Was								he	singing	---

Forma NEGATIVA

Es.	Soggetto	+	was	+	not	+	-ing form	+	oggetto/ luogo	+	tempo deter.		
			were								not		
			weren't/wasn't									working	---
	They		weren't										

Forma INTERROG.-NEGATIVA

Es.	Wasn't	+	soggetto	+	-ing form	+	oggetto/ luogo	+	tempo deter.		
	Weren't										
	Weren't								you	texting	Tom

ESEMPI MISTI:

Pron./Avv. Interr.	Ausil. Interrog.	Soggetto	Ausil. afferm./negat.	Verbo	Oggetto	Altro
---	---	We	were	watching	TV	when the doorbell rang.
---	Were	you	---	having	dinner	when I called?
While	---	Jim	was	playing	basketball	he hurt his wrist.
---	---	I	wasn't	listening to	the teacher	during the lesson.
What	were	they	---	doing	---	at 5 o'clock yesterday?

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