

# LESSON 66

344 Past continuous

I was speaking

particular

while

We use the present continuous for an action that is in progress now. For example, "I am speaking English now".

We use the past continuous for an action that was in progress at a particular time in the past. For example, "I was speaking English at this time yesterday". If I say "I was sleeping at 4 o'clock this morning", it means that I went to sleep before 4 o'clock and I woke up after 4 o'clock; at 4 o'clock, I was in the middle of a period of sleeping.

When do we use the present continuous?

We use the present continuous for an action that is in progress now

Give me an example, please.

I am speaking English now

When do we use the past continuous?

We use the past continuous for an action that was in progress at a particular time in the past

Give me an example, please.

I was speaking English at this time yesterday

The most common use of the past continuous is to say that an action was in progress when another action happened. For example, "I was cooking lunch when she arrived" means that, when she arrived, I was in the middle of cooking lunch.

Were you chatting to anybody when I came into the room at the beginning of the lesson?

Yes, I was ... when you ...;  
~ No, I wasn't ... when you ...

345 Were the students standing or sitting when I left the classroom at the end of the last lesson?

The students were ...  
when you left the classroom...

Was it raining while you were coming to school today? Yes, it was raining while I was coming ...  
~ No, it wasn't raining while I was coming ...

What were you doing at this time last Sunday? I was ...  
at this time last Sunday

Do you think most people in this town were sleeping at midnight last night? Yes, I think ...

Where were you living ten years ago? I was living ... ten years ago

## earn

About how much does a doctor earn a year in your country?  
A doctor earns about ... a year in my country

**formal**

**informal**

**jeans**

**trainer**

## how do you do?

Would it be OK for a man to wear jeans and trainers if he was going to a formal dinner? No, it wouldn't be ...  
he should wear a suit and tie

When we meet somebody for the first time, what can we say?  
When we meet ...  
we can say "Nice to meet you"

And what do we say if we want to be more formal? If we want ...  
we say "How do you do?"

And what does the other person reply?  
The other person  
replies "How do you do?"

## 346 persuade

Is it easy to persuade people to give their money away? No, it isn't easy ...; it's difficult

## hairdresser

How often do you go to the hairdresser's? I go to the hairdresser's ... times a year

**so**

**interesting**

**exciting**

Why do you think some films are so popular? I think ... because they tell interesting or exciting stories

**grammatically**

Is it grammatically correct to say "I've seen her yesterday"?  
No, it isn't ...; we should say "I saw her yesterday" instead

**bathroom**

**bath**

**shower**

**toilet**

**basin**

What does a bathroom usually contain?  
A bathroom usually contains a bath or shower, a toilet and a basin

Which do you prefer: baths or showers? I prefer ...

What's a rain shower? A rain shower is a short period of rain

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**mirror**

**reflect**

What does a mirror do? A mirror reflects light

In which rooms in a house do we usually find a mirror? We usually find a mirror in a bathroom or a bedroom

**Active and passive voice**

**active**

**passive**

**subject**

**object**

**Active voice**

**John broke the window**

In the sentence "John broke the window", "John" is the subject and "the window" is the object. The verb, "broke", is in the active voice. All the verbs we have practised up to now have been in the active voice. The

active voice communicates that the subject is active and it does the action in the sentence.

## Passive voice

### The window was broken by John

This sentence, "The window was broken by John", has the same meaning, but the subject is now "The window", and the verb, "was broken", is in the passive voice. The passive voice communicates that the subject is passive; it does not do the action; it receives it.

#### 348 "To be" + past participle

by

We form the passive voice with the verb "to be" and a past participle. The verb "to be" communicates the time, and the past participle says what the action is. We use the word "by" when we want to say who does the action.

In the sentence "The window was broken by John", the word "was" tells us that the action happened in the past, the word "broken" tells us the action, and the words "by John" tell us who did the action.

What does the active voice communicate? The active voice communicates that the subject does the action

What does the passive voice communicate? The passive voice communicates that the subject receives the action

How do we form the passive voice? We form the passive voice with the verb "to be" and a past participle

Give me some examples, please. My car was washed last month.  
Many computers are made in China.  
The students will be taught by the teacher.

**We must remember to put the verb "to be" in the right form. For example, "John has eaten pasta" becomes "Pasta has been eaten by John".**

Now I am going to give you a sentence in the active voice, and I want you to put it into the passive voice:

John eats the pasta

The pasta is eaten by John

John ate the pasta

John has eaten the pasta

349 John will eat the pasta

John is eating the pasta

John was eating the pasta

John would eat the pasta

The pasta was eaten **by** John

The pasta has been eaten **by** John

The pasta will be eaten **by** John

The pasta is being eaten **by** John

The pasta was being eaten **by** John

The pasta would be eaten **by** John

Now we're going to practise with some different sentences:

I clean my car every Saturday

She forgot him

My boss is going to write that email

We are fixing the car

They have followed all the advice

My car is cleaned  
**by** me every Saturday

He was forgotten **by** her

That email is going to  
be written **by** my boss

The car is being fixed **by** us

All the advice has  
been followed **by** them



### Dictation 40

They could perhaps meet/ a friend of theirs/ on their way home/ after the lesson./  
He had a bad cold./ but he refused/ to take any medicine./ You can learn words and  
grammar/ by reading books/ or using the internet./ However, you cannot learn/  
how to speak a language well/ without practising it./ We must, therefore,/ try to  
speak/ as often as possible./ Do you have enough time/ to finish the work?



### Revision Exercise 26