

# The Past Tense – Past Progressive

*There are three aspects of the past tense:*

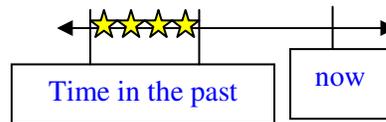
- 1) Simple past
- 2) **Past progressive**
- 3) Past perfect (simple and progressive)

The **past progressive tense** is used to describe actions that were in progress in the past.

- Use the helping verb “**was**” before a verb in the past progressive tense when used to describe (**I, he, she, it**).
- Use the helping verb “**were**” before a verb in past progressive tense to describe (**we, you, they**).
- Add “**ing**” to the verb ending.

★ = action

[I / he / she / it] [was] [verb + “ing”]  
 we / you / they [were] [verb + “ing”]



Example: I was running.

Example: They were running.

- Add the word “**not**” between the helping verb (was / were) and the main verb to form the negative.

Example: We were not running.

Directions: Write the correct form of the verb in the spaces below.

- 1) We \_\_\_\_\_ (to go) to the mall last night.
- 2) She \_\_\_\_\_ (to talk) to the police officer last week.
- 3) I \_\_\_\_\_ (to buy) a new bicycle when you called me.
- 4) John \_\_\_\_\_ (to listen) to a CD an hour ago.
- 5) Margo, Juan, and Anika \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ (to ride) on the bus to work.
- 6) We \_\_\_\_\_ (to try) to get five gold medals in the last Olympics.
- 7) My brother \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) mean last night.
- 8) The four of us \_\_\_\_\_ (to swim) in the lake yesterday.
- 9) My mom \_\_\_\_\_ (to rock) the baby to sleep last night.
- 10) I \_\_\_\_\_ (to sing) in my car this morning.

Directions: Put the following sentences in past progressive tense.

1) I watched a movie.

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Sarah wears jeans.

\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Now make your own sentences in the past progressive tense.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_