

Notes on teaching this form

You need to plan a 50 minute PPP lesson to introduce and practise the *past continuous to describe interrupted actions in the past* to a class of 14-16 year old students.

Lesson content: At this age students are normally taught formal grammar, so you should look at MFP with them in the presentation stage. Include concept checking.

However, you should not forget that they are still young learners so the context and activities you use should be selected to appeal to children of this age. You should include a board plan for the presentation stage and use at least one more of the teaching aids discussed in Unit 9.

Use a timeline to help explain meaning, and concept check questions (CCQs) to check student understanding.

You can use or adapt practice activities you have found on the Internet or in teachers' resource books, providing they fit in well with your lesson, but please provide a reference, even if you have adapted the material.

Do not use whole lesson plans or presentations you have found on the Internet. The presentation and the lesson plan and must be your own work.

Aims of this lesson: To introduce the past continuous

Function – to describe interrupted actions (ONLY look at this function)

To contrast past continuous and past simple in sentences such as 'We were eating dinner when John came round.'

To provide controlled and freer practice of past continuous and past simple in this function.

Assumed knowledge: Students would already know present simple, present continuous and past simple for common verbs, including commonly used irregular verbs.

They would be familiar with grammatical terminology such as *the names of the tenses, auxiliary verb, negative form, etc.*

Language grading: The students are quite low level, so you need to be very careful about the language you use. Include a separate document entitled 'Teacher language,' showing the actual words you would use when eliciting the target language in the presentation and the instructions you would give for one activity.

Past continuous: Revise this form (for yourself), see Unit 4. You will find it useful to do some further research online as we have not covered the functions of this tense in the unit. See, for example

The English Page <http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/pastcontinuous.html>

English Tenses.com http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/past_continuous

Learn English The British Council <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/verbs/past-tense/past-continuous>

This function of the past continuous (*describing interrupted actions in the past*) is usually used to introduce students to this tense. It shows the contrast between the new tense and the past simple, which students already know, so you can relate the target language to something they are already familiar with.

Examples are:

I was having a shower when the phone rang.

We were walking to the shop when it began to rain.

Until he hit his boss, he was doing very well in his new job.