Larbi Ben M’hidi University

Department of S.M

Level: L1 students

Module: English

Teacher: Miss Rebai

**Past continuous**

**(Progressive)**

The past continuous tense usually we need it when we talk about a continuous action in the past i.e, something that was happening during a specific period of time and it was continuous.

* **When to use the past continuous**

**Action in progress:** wewere watching a movie at 8 pm last night.

**Simultaneous actions:** she was listening to music while she was cleaning the house.

**Interrupted actions:** I was taking a showerwhen the phone rang.

**Polite requests:** I was thinking you might have some advice for me.

* **When not to use**

**Stative verbs:** I *was knowing* him for many years. They *were owning* a big house

 I knew him for many years they owned a big house.

* **How to use the progressive tense**

**For positive sentences:**

 Subject + to be (in the past) + verb + ing

For example: I was working yesterday

 They were working yesterday

To be in the past: I was / he was / she was / it was / they were / we were / you were.

**For negative sentences:**

 Subject + to be + not + verb + ing

For example: I was not working at the BBC bank.

 They were not working together.

**For questions:** simply we exchangethe order between the subject and the verb to be.

 Was / were + subject + verb + ing

For example: was he studying English?

 Were you studying together?

 Where was she working?

* **Contractions**

**Was not = wasn’t**

**Were not = weren’t**

Verbs ending in (e) drop (e) make = making

Verbs ending in (ie) drop (ie) lie = lying / tie tying

 Add (y)

Ecercice:

Positive sentences

1. I am learning English …………….
2. We are waiting for karim……………………….
3. She is acting like an actor………………….

Negative sentences

1. Meryem was teaching yesterday ……………….
2. Chaima was singing during the class…………….
3. We were watching a movie

Questions

1. Adem was going to the stadium

…………………………………

1. Asma was doing her homework

………………………………..

1. I was making dinner at 7 pm

…………………………….