Continuous tense

Continuous means ongoing without interruption.
It is happening at this moment.

Continuous tense is divided in:
1. Present continuous tense
2. Past continuous tense
3. Future continuous tense

1. Present Continuous tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Am / is / are</th>
<th>verb</th>
<th>ing!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>I am</td>
<td>walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>You are</td>
<td>walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>He, she, it is</td>
<td>walking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look at the following examples:

I am brushing my teeth.
You are playing piano.
She is writing a story.
He is riding his bike.
They are singing songs.
We are spending money.
Exercise 1.1

Change the verbs to the present continuous tense

1. The cat **eats** ___________ in the kitchen.
2. Peter **sits** ___________ in his tree house.
3. The children **bake** ___________ biscuits.
4. I **walk** ___________ to the mall on my own.
5. We **paint** ___________ our house cream and brown.
6. Nina **plays** ___________ the piano quite well.
7. The boys **ride** ___________ their bicycles often.
8. Ian **leaves** ___________ our class at the end of the week.
9. The dog **barks** ___________ outside the back door.
10. The girls **slide** ___________ down the sand dune.
Exercise 1.2

B. Rewrite the sentences in the present continuous tense

1. The principal shakes his head at the giggling children.
   _________________________________________________________________

2. Our pony club rides well at competitions.
   _________________________________________________________________

3. The fathers lead the horses to drink water.
   _________________________________________________________________

4. Rose bushes grow well in spring and summer.
   _________________________________________________________________

5. I kneel in front of the fire.
   _________________________________________________________________
Exercise 1.3
Change the verbs to the present continuous tense

1. The rugby team **plays**________ its first match of the season.
2. All the girls **wear**________ sports clothes to school.
3. We **write**________ letters to our best friends.
4. I **swing**________ on the branches of the oak tree.
5. Peter **stands**________ on top of the garden wall.
6. The hungry man **steals**________ bread from the bakery.
7. A white swan **swims**________ in the pond.
8. The children **spend**________ their money on sweets.
9. I **save**________ my money for our vacation.
10. Mother **looks**________ at the roses in the garden.

YOUR MARK: /5

YOUR MARK: /10
Exercise 1.4
Rewrite the sentences in the present continuous tense

1. I blow up the colourful balloons.
   ____________________________________________________________

2. James lights the fire at six o’clock.
   ____________________________________________________________

3. The grannies push their grandchildren to the park.
   ____________________________________________________________

4. The dogs dig in the sand for their bones.
   ____________________________________________________________

5. The family eats supper early tonight.
   ____________________________________________________________

YOUR MARK: /5
2. Past continuous tense

Past tells us that it has already happened

Continuous tells us that it was an ongoing action

was /were + verb + ing!

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was walking</td>
<td>We were walking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were walking</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>He, she, it was walking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look at the following examples.

e.g. I was brushing my teeth.

You were playing piano.

She was writing a story.

He was riding his bike.

I was

He, she and it was

All the rest were!
They were singing songs.

We were spending money.

Exercise 2.1
Change the verbs to the past continuous tense

1. The dogs lay ________ under the couch.
2. Mary worked ________ hard in the study.
3. The parents discussed ________ the sports day.
4. I drove ________ to the mall with my friend’s car.
5. We fixed ________ the tiles on the roof.
6. Anita practised ________ the violin.
7. The girls cycled ________ to school.
8. Ian decided ________ on a plan of action.
9. The puppy barked ________ loudly yesterday afternoon.
10. My children slid ________ down the sand dune.
Exercise 2.2
Rewrite the sentences in the past continuous tense

1. Mom and the children cleaned the house yesterday.

2. Our cat caught a bird on the lawn.

3. I drew a picture for our art lesson.

4. They fed the chickens early.

5. Peter forgot to do his homework.
Exercise 2.3
Change the verbs to the past continuous tense

1. I **hoped** __________ to leave early this morning.
2. They **danced** __________ to the music at the party.
3. A silly clown **squirted** __________ water at the audience.
4. The silkworms **hatched** __________ from their eggs.
5. Sam **skated** __________ on his board yesterday.
6. My tooth **ached** __________ last night.
7. We **looked** __________ everywhere for the ball.
8. The lion **rested** __________ in the shade of the tree.
9. The guards **patrolled** __________ the fence last night.
10. I **hung** __________ the washing on the line.

YOUR MARK: /10
Exercise 2.4
Rewrite the sentences in the past continuous tense

1. The tourists nearly froze on the mountain.
   _______________________________________________________________

2. Granny gave me money for a present.
   _______________________________________________________________

3. They all went to the concert every evening.
   _______________________________________________________________

4. I hung my coat in the cupboard.
   _______________________________________________________________

5. We keep our valuables in a safe.
   _______________________________________________________________
3. Future continuous tense

Future tells us that it is still going to happen.
Continuous tells us that it will be an ongoing action.

will be / shall be + verb + ing!

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Look at the following examples:

I shall be brushing my teeth.
You will be playing piano.
She will be writing a story.
He will be riding his bike.
CONTINUOUS TENSE

They will be singing songs.
We shall be spending money.

Exercise 3.1
Change the verbs to the future continuous tense

1. I watch ___________ a sports programme on TV.
2. Father makes ___________ plans for our holiday.
3. We look ___________ forward to mountain climbing in April.
4. Tina exchanges ___________ her library books.
5. Alan leaves ___________ the country at the end of the week.
6. The little puppy cries ___________ for its mother.
7. Tonight we play ___________ Space Invaders with our cousins.
8. I phone ___________ my sister in Port Elizabeth on Sundays.
9. She moves ___________ into her new house later today.
CONTINUOUS TENSE

10. Tonight we **celebrate** __________ the start of a new year.

Exercise 3.2

Rewrite the sentences in the future continuous tense

1. We look forward to the cricket match on Saturday.
   
   ______________________________________________________

2. The team arrives at the stadium on time.
   
   ______________________________________________________

3. Many spectators cheer loudly for their team.
   
   ______________________________________________________

4. I help to serve refreshments at half time.
   
   ______________________________________________________
Exercise 3.3
Change the verbs to the future continuous tense

1. Mr Jones teaches ________ us Geometry.
2. Jeffrey brings ________ his dog to my house.
3. I go ________ to visit a friend in hospital.
4. We listen ________ to music later on.
5. The starving beggar eats ________ a plate of food.
6. The boys kick ________ the ball in the street.
7. The girl gives ________ her toys to the poor children.
8. We bring ________ food parcels with us.
9. The swallows fly ________ away in autumn.
10. I keep ________ all my books and CD’s.
Exercise 3.4

Rewrite the sentences in the future continuous tense

1. I sent invitations to my friends.

2. Deon blows up balloons for the party.

3. My sisters decorate the house and garden.

4. Everybody watches me cut the cake.
5. We listen to some speeches.