13.2 Past Continuous Tense (Year 3): 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The School Fete

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The whole school was buzzing with excitement on the morning of the summer fete. Miss Grant was carrying a box of raffle tickets across the playground when the bell rang for assembly. In the hall, the Year 3 children were rehearsing their song for the afternoon show, and Mr Adeyemi was tuning his guitar in the corner. Outside, some parents were setting up a cake stall while others unloaded chairs from a van. By lunchtime, the sun was shining brightly and everyone hurried outside to enjoy it. Priya and Tom were queuing for the coconut shy when the head teacher rang a bell to open the fete. Later, as families packed away their picnic blankets, the caretaker was already sweeping the playground for the next school day.

1 These sentences are taken from the passage above. Underline the past continuous verb phrase in each one.

(a) Miss Grant was carrying a box of raffle tickets across the playground. **(1)**

(b) In the hall, the Year 3 children were rehearsing their song for the afternoon show. **(1)**

(c) Outside, some parents were setting up a cake stall while others unloaded chairs from a van. **(1)**

(d) Priya and Tom were queuing for the coconut shy when the head teacher rang a bell to open the fete. **(1)**

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2 Find and correct the two errors in the sentence below.

Yesterday evening, the twins was watch a film together.

(2)

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3 Write two sentences of your own describing what different people were doing at the same time yesterday evening. Use the past continuous tense correctly in each sentence.

(4)

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4 A writer describes the background of a scene using the past continuous tense, for example: The rain was falling steadily as the bus pulled away. Explain why the past continuous tense is a good choice for this kind of background description, rather than the simple past.

(2)

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5 Join the two sentences below into one sentence, using when, to show that the first action was interrupted by the second. Change the first sentence into the past continuous tense.

The children played in the garden. It started to rain suddenly.

(3)

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6 Each sentence below has an incorrect helping verb. Rewrite each sentence, correcting was or were.

(a) We was walking to the shop when it started to rain. **(1)**

(b) She were singing loudly in the choir. **(1)**

(c) The children was playing outside all afternoon. **(1)**

(d) I were watching the news when the power went off. **(1)**

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7 Each sentence below has an incorrect verb form. Rewrite each sentence, correcting the past continuous verb.

(a) He was walk to school when he saw his friend. **(1)**

(b) They were swim in the lake when the storm began. **(1)**

(c) I was write my diary when the lights went out. **(1)**

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8 Tick whether each sentence is written in the past continuous tense or the simple past tense.

(a) The sun was shining all morning. **(1)**

- ☐ Past continuous
- ☐ Simple past

(b) The bus arrived on time. **(1)**

- ☐ Past continuous
- ☐ Simple past

(c) We were eating lunch in the hall. **(1)**

- ☐ Past continuous
- ☐ Simple past

(d) The teacher smiled at the class. **(1)**

- ☐ Past continuous
- ☐ Simple past

(e) They were playing chess after school. **(1)**

- ☐ Past continuous
- ☐ Simple past

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9 Circle was or were to complete each sentence correctly.

(a) I ___ reading my book when the fire alarm rang. **(1)**

- ☐ was
- ☐ were

(b) They ___ playing football at break time. **(1)**

- ☐ was
- ☐ were

(c) She ___ writing a letter to her grandmother. **(1)**

- ☐ was
- ☐ were

(d) We ___ walking home when it started to rain. **(1)**

- ☐ was
- ☐ were

(e) It ___ raining heavily all afternoon. **(1)**

- ☐ was
- ☐ were

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10 Complete each sentence with the past continuous form of the verb in brackets.

(a) The birds ___ (sing) in the trees when we arrived. **(1)**

(b) I ___ (make) a sandwich when the phone rang. **(1)**

(c) The children ___ (play) hide and seek in the garden. **(1)**

(d) Grandad ___ (read) the newspaper by the fire. **(1)**

11 Rewrite each sentence in the past continuous tense. Keep the time expression at the start of the sentence.

(a) At six o'clock, Dad cooked the dinner. **(1)**

(b) All morning, the builders worked next door. **(1)**

(c) By nine o'clock, the baby slept soundly. **(1)**

12 Join the two sentences below into one sentence, using while and the past continuous tense, to show that both actions were happening at the same time.

Tom cleaned his room. Ben watched television.

(3)

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Mark scheme · 13.2 Past Continuous Tense (Year 3): 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) was carrying underlined cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **was carrying**

(b) were rehearsing underlined cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **were rehearsing**

(c) were setting up underlined cao (unloaded is simple past and should not be underlined) **B1**

(c) Answer: **were setting up**

(d) were queuing underlined cao (rang is simple past and should not be underlined) **B1**

(d) Answer: **were queuing**

Question 2

was corrected to were (the twins is a plural subject) cao **B1**

watch corrected to watching (the past continuous needs the -ing form) cao **B1**

Answer: **Yesterday evening, the twins were watching a film together.**

Question 3

sentence 1 uses the past continuous tense correctly (was/were + verb-ing) (oe) **B1**

sentence 1 has correct subject-verb agreement and correctly spelled -ing form (cao) **B1**

sentence 2 uses the past continuous tense correctly (was/were + verb-ing) (oe) **B1**

sentence 2 has correct subject-verb agreement and correctly spelled -ing form (cao) **B1**

Answer: **e.g. At seven o'clock, my sister was doing her homework in the kitchen. At the same time, I was tidying my bedroom upstairs.**

Question 4

identifies that the past continuous shows an action that was still ongoing/in progress at that moment (oe) **B1**

identifies an effect, e.g. it sets the scene or creates a backdrop against which the simple past action (the bus pulled away) stands out as a single, completed event (oe) **B1**

Answer: **The past continuous shows the rain was still going on around that moment, creating a backdrop of atmosphere against which the single, completed action (the bus pulled away) stands out.**

Question 5

played changed correctly to were playing cao **B1**

when used correctly to link the two clauses cao **B1**

started to rain suddenly kept in the simple past as the interrupting action cao **B1**

Answer: **The children were playing in the garden when it started to rain suddenly.**

Question 6

(a) We were walking to the shop when it started to rain. cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **We were walking to the shop when it started to rain.**

(b) She was singing loudly in the choir. cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **She was singing loudly in the choir.**

(c) The children were playing outside all afternoon. cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **The children were playing outside all afternoon.**

(d) I was watching the news when the power went off. cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **I was watching the news when the power went off.**

Question 7

(a) He was walking to school when he saw his friend. cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **He was walking to school when he saw his friend.**

(b) They were swimming in the lake when the storm began. cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **They were swimming in the lake when the storm began.**

(c) I was writing my diary when the lights went out. cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **I was writing my diary when the lights went out.**

Question 8

(a) Past continuous ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **Past continuous**

(b) Simple past ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **Simple past**

(c) Past continuous ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **Past continuous**

(d) Simple past ticked cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **Simple past**

(e) Past continuous ticked cao **B1**

(e) Answer: **Past continuous**

Question 9

(a) was circled cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **was**

(b) were circled cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **were**

(c) was circled cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **was**

(d) were circled cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **were**

(e) was circled cao **B1**

(e) Answer: **was**

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Question 10

(a) were singing cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **were singing**

(b) was making cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **was making**

(c) were playing cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **were playing**

(d) was reading cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **was reading**

Question 11

(a) At six o'clock, Dad was cooking the dinner. cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **At six o'clock, Dad was cooking the dinner.**

(b) All morning, the builders were working next door. cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **All morning, the builders were working next door.**

(c) By nine o'clock, the baby was sleeping soundly. cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **By nine o'clock, the baby was sleeping soundly.**

Question 12

while used to link the two clauses (oe: either clause may come first) cao **B1**

was cleaning used correctly for Tom cao **B1**

was watching used correctly for Ben cao **B1**

Answer: **Tom was cleaning his room while Ben was watching television.**

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