

# Preterit progressif anglais

Cours sur le Preterit progressif anglais , aussi appelé Past Continuous, past progressive, prétérit continu passé progressif/continu en français (beaucoup de noms différents mais c'est exactement la même chose !)

## 1/ Formation du preterit progressif en anglais

**Be au prétérit + base verbale + -ing**

- I / he / she / it **was** going
- we / you / they **were** going

Dans une phrase:

- **Affirmative:** He was joking
- **Négative:** He was not (= wasn't) joking.
- **Interrogative:** Was he joking ?

## 2/ Utilisation du preterit progressif anglais

Remarquez la différence entre le prétérit simple et le preterit progressif:

- **Prétérit simple:** *I was watching TV yesterday evening* => J'ai regardé la TV hier soir.
- **Preterit progressif:** *I was watching TV yesterday evening* => J'étais en train de regarder la TV hier soir.

On utilise le prétérit progressif pour:

**Parler d'une action en cours à un moment passé:**

- *We were washing the dishes.*

**Raconter quand un événement en cours a été interrompue (il y a aussi du past simple dans la phrase après when ou while):**

- *I burnt my arm while I was cooking.*
- *It was raining when they went to the pub.*
- *I was watching TV when she called me.*

**Lorsque deux actions se sont passées au même moment (on utilise souvent 'while'):**

- *Tom was playing video games while John was reading a comic.*
- *While Linda was taking the bus, someone stole her wallet.*
- *What was he doing while she was driving?*

**Parler d'un événement passé très récent (avec just ou recently)**

- *He was just finishing to clean the house when his wife arrived.*

**Exprimer des actions passées qui se répétaient souvent:**

- *She was swimming every day at the pool.*

**Exprimer des actions passées qui irritent la personne qui parle (avec always ou constantly):**

- *Sam was always smoking cigarettes.*
- *He was constantly sleeping at work.*

**Décrire une personne au passé:**

- *When I saw her she was wearing a blue dress.*

**La forme active / passive du prétérit progressif:**

•Actif => *Tina was preparing dinner when her husband came back*

•Passif => *The dinner was being prepared by Tina when her husband came back*

**Certains verbes ne s'emploient pas au prétérit progressif sauf pour quelques exceptions. Voici les principaux:**

love / like / know / want / need / seem / mean / prefer / belong / understand / consist / suppose / remember / realise /  
forget / notice

•*I knew he was a policeman* (et pas I was knowing)

•*He wanted to go out but it was snowing too much* (et pas He was wanting)