

# Continuos Tenses

Present Continuous

Past Continuous

Future Continuous

## Present Continuous (meaning)

- The PRESENT CONTINUOUS tense expresses an action, state of being or state of mind that is taking place in the moment of speaking.
- Expressions of time most frequently used:
  - now
  - at this moment
  - on ... (*Monday morning, ...*)
  - at ... (*5 o' clock, ...*)
  - at present

## Present Continuous (General Structure)

- *(affirmative) S + BE (am, is, are) + V(-ing) + ...*  
 e.g. I am looking for a job now.  
       She's writing some notes.
- *(negative) S + BE (am, is, are) + NOT + V(-ing) + ...*  
 e.g. We are not making plans at this moment.  
       Fred isn't helping at all.
- *(interrogative) BE (am, is, are) + S + V(-ing) + ... ?*  
 e.g. Is he studying at present?  
       Are they watching a film now?

## Past Continuous (meaning)

- The PAST CONTINUOUS tense expresses an action, state of being or state of mind that was happening in the past in a specific moment another was taking place.
- Expressions of time most frequently used:
  - any expression of the past (ago, last, etc.)
  - at ... (*7 o' clock yesterday*)
  - *when*
  - *while*

## Past Continuous (General Structure)

- *(affirmative) S + BE (was, were) + V(-ing) + ...*  
 e.g. We were working yesterday morning at 10:00 am.  
 She was sending a message last Friday at 2:00 pm.
- *(negative) S + BE (was, were) + NOT + V(-ing) ...*  
 e.g. I was not talking when you arrived.  
 Sue was not dancing last Saturday night.
- *(interrogative) BE (was, were) + S + V(-ing) + ... ?*  
 e.g. Were you studying while John was playing?  
 Was Jeff buying a car two weeks ago?

## Future Continuous (meaning)

- n The **FUTURE CONTINUOUS** expresses an action, state of being, state of mind that is going to take place in a specific moment in the future.
- n Although the future tense is expressed using two structures (*GOING TO-WILL/SHALL*) this grammatical tense mostly uses the auxiliaries "WILL" or "SHALL".
- n Notice that, as it is a continuous tense, the suffix (+ing) must be used at the end of the principal verb.
- n This verb tense also needs the verb "BE" as an auxiliary, but it must be always in "simple form".
- n **Expressions of time** most frequently used:
  - n Anyone of the future may be used.

## **Future Continuous (General Structure)**

n *(affirmative) S + WILL + BE + V (+ing) + ...*

e.g. I **will be waiting** for you at the bus stop tomorrow.

n *(negative) S + WILL + NOT + BE + V (+ing) + ...*

e.g. You **will not be doing** that work by next summer.

n *(interrogative) WILL + S + BE + V (+ing) + ... ?*

e.g. **Will she be making** a speech next month?