

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 56

Exercise 1 — True or False? (8 points)

Read each statement. Write **True** or **False**.

1. The Past Continuous passive is formed with was/were + being + past participle.

Answer: _____

2. "He always interrupted" and "he was always interrupting" have exactly the same meaning.

Answer: _____

3. "I was wondering if you could help" sounds more polite than "I wonder if you could help".

Answer: _____

4. The Past Continuous passive is used when the agent is the most important part of the sentence.

Answer: _____

5. At C1/C2 level, extended narratives often combine four or more tenses.

Answer: _____

6. "She was always losing things" implies the speaker found this behaviour irritating.

Answer: _____

7. "I was hoping to speak to you" is an example of tentative language using the Past Continuous.

Answer: _____

8. "The bridge was being repaired" tells us who was repairing the bridge.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice (8 points)

Choose the correct form. Circle your answer.

1. The pipeline ____ when the inspectors arrived on site.

(was being tested / was tested / had been testing)

2. He ____ always ____ credit for other people's work.

(was / taking — always / took — had / taken)

3. I ____ if you might be able to advise me on this matter.

(was wondering / wondered / am wondering)

4. The new offices ____ when we signed the lease.

(were being fitted out / were fitted out / had been fitting out)

5. She ____ always ____ to meetings without preparing properly.

(was / coming — always / came — had / come)

6. We ____ of approaching the client informally first.

(were thinking / thought / had been thinking)

7. The files ____ when the system was breached.

(were being transferred / were transferred / had been transferring)

8. I ____ to request an extension on the deadline, if that's possible.

(was hoping / hoped / am hoping)

Exercise 3 — Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to the correct description (a–h). Write the letter.

Sentences	Descriptions / Uses
1. The evidence was being processed when the suspect was released.	A. Past Continuous passive — action in progress on an object at a past moment.
2. He was always making promises he never kept. ____	B. Past Continuous with always — repeated past habit implying criticism or disapproval.
3. I was hoping you might be able to reconsider the decision.	C. Tentative and polite language using the Past Continuous.
4. A new policy was being drafted behind closed doors. ____	D. Past Continuous passive in a formal or journalistic context.
5. She was always the last to arrive and the first to leave.	E. Past Continuous with always — describing a characteristic repeated behavior.
6. We were thinking of restructuring the department. ____	F. Tentative language — a plan or idea presented indirectly.
7. The system had been compromised. Data was being extracted as the alarm was being triggered.	G. Extended Past Continuous passive with other tenses.
8. Documents were being shredded when the auditors arrived.	H. Past Continuous passive — an action in progress that is interrupted.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

1. The servers ____ when the breach was detected.

(were being monitored / were monitored / had been monitoring)

2. He was always ____ excuses for poor performance.

(making / made / make)

3. I ____ if you might have a moment to discuss the proposal.

(was wondering / wondered / am wondering)

4. A replacement contract ____ when the original supplier pulled out.

(was being negotiated / was negotiated / had been negotiating)

5. She was always ____ decisions that had already been made.

(questioning / questioned / question)

6. We ____ of submitting a revised bid — would that be acceptable?

(were thinking / thought / had been thinking)

7. The crime scene ____ when new witnesses came forward.

(was still being examined / was examined / had examined)

8. I ____ to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

(was hoping / hoped / am hoping)

Exercise 5 — Word Order (8 points)

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. finalised / report / The / being / audit / was / when / the / began

2. late / always / She / arriving / important / was / meetings / to

3. could / I / wondering / advise / was / if / you / me

4. gathered / evidence / being / New / was / very / at / that / moment

5. always / credit / He / taking / others' / for / was / work

6. discuss / hoping / We / this / next / were / to / the / at / meeting

7. interviewed / being / lawyer / The / when / was / arrived / the / suspect

8. proposing / thinking / I / different / was / a / of / approach

Exercise 6 — Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column of the table below.

Word bank: The building was being evacuated when the fire brigade arrived. | New systems were being installed across all three sites. | The contaminated products were being recalled from supermarket shelves. | He was always undermining his colleagues in front of senior staff. | She was always questioning the methodology without offering alternatives. | He was always sending emails at midnight expecting immediate replies. | I was wondering if we might postpone the decision. | We were thinking of approaching the board with a revised proposal. | I was hoping to get your thoughts on the matter before the meeting. | The data had been corrupted. Files were being recovered as the team worked through the night. | The investigation had stalled. Key witnesses were being reinterviewed and fresh evidence was being sought. | Records had been sealed. A journalist was reviewing documents that had been leaked anonymously.

Passive (was/were being)	Always — Irritating Habit	Tentative / Polite Language	Extended Narrative
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

A: I ____ if you had a moment to discuss something sensitive.

(was wondering / wondered / am wondering)

B: Of course. I ____ to catch up with you today anyway.

(was hoping / hoped / am hoping)

A: Apparently client data ____ without authorisation last week.

(was being accessed / was accessed / had accessed)

B: The logs ____ by the security team when I left last night.

(were being reviewed / were reviewed / had been reviewing)

A: One member of the team ____ outside normal working hours. It raised flags.

(was always logging in / always logged in / had always logged)

B: We ____ of bringing in an external auditor. Would you support that?

(were thinking / thought / had been thinking)

Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. The Past Continuous passive is formed with was/were + being + past participle.
✓ **True**
 2. "He always interrupted" and "he was always interrupting" have exactly the same meaning.
✓ **False**
 3. "I was wondering if you could help" sounds more polite than "I wonder if you could help".
✓ **True**
 4. The Past Continuous passive is used when the agent is the most important part of the sentence.
✓ **False**
 5. At C1/C2 level, extended narratives often combine four or more tenses.
✓ **True**
 6. "She was always losing things" implies the speaker found this behaviour irritating.
✓ **True**
 7. "I was hoping to speak to you" is an example of tentative language using the Past Continuous.
✓ **True**
 8. "The bridge was being repaired" tells us who was repairing the bridge.
✓ **False**
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Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice

1. The pipeline ____ when the inspectors arrived on site.
✓ **was being tested**
2. He ____ always ____ credit for other people's work.
✓ **was / taking**
3. I ____ if you might be able to advise me on this matter.
✓ **was wondering**
4. The new offices ____ when we signed the lease.
✓ **were being fitted out**
5. She ____ always ____ to meetings without preparing properly.
✓ **was / coming**
6. We ____ of approaching the client informally first.

✓ **were thinking**

7. The files ____ when the system was breached.

✓ **were being transferred**

8. I ____ to request an extension on the deadline, if that's possible.

✓ **was hoping**

Exercise 3 — Matching

1. The evidence was being processed when the suspect was released.

✓ **Past Continuous passive — action in progress on an object at a past moment.**

2. He was always making promises he never kept.

✓ **Past Continuous with always — repeated past habit implying criticism or irritation.**

3. I was hoping you might be able to reconsider the decision.

✓ **Tentative and polite language using the Past Continuous.**

4. A new policy was being drafted behind closed doors.

✓ **Past Continuous passive in a formal or journalistic context.**

5. She was always the last to arrive and the first to leave.

✓ **Past Continuous with always — describing a characteristic repeated behaviour.**

6. We were thinking of restructuring the department.

✓ **Tentative language — a plan or idea presented indirectly.**

7. The system had been compromised. Data was being extracted even as the alarm was raised.

✓ **Extended narrative combining Past Continuous passive with other tenses.**

8. Documents were being shredded when the auditors arrived.

✓ **Past Continuous passive — an action in progress that is interrupted.**

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill

1. The servers ____ when the breach was detected.

✓ **were being monitored**

2. He was always ____ excuses for poor performance.

✓ **making**

3. I ____ if you might have a moment to discuss the proposal.

✓ **was wondering**

4. A replacement contract ____ when the original supplier pulled out.

✓ **was being negotiated**

5. She was always ____ decisions that had already been made.

✓ questioning

6. We ____ of submitting a revised bid — would that be acceptable?

✓ were thinking

7. The crime scene ____ when new witnesses came forward.

✓ was still being examined

8. I ____ to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

✓ was hoping

Exercise 5 — Word Order

1. ✓ The report was being finalised when the audit began

2. ✓ She was always arriving late to important meetings

3. ✓ I was wondering if you could advise me

4. ✓ New evidence was being gathered at that very moment

5. ✓ He was always taking credit for others' work

6. ✓ We were hoping to discuss this at the next meeting

7. ✓ The suspect was being interviewed when the lawyer arrived

8. ✓ I was thinking of proposing a different approach

Exercise 6 — Word Sort

Passive (was/were being):

✓ The building was being evacuated when the fire brigade arrived.

✓ New systems were being installed across all three sites.

✓ The contaminated products were being recalled from supermarket shelves.

Always — Irritating Habit:

✓ He was always undermining his colleagues in front of senior staff.

✓ She was always questioning the methodology without offering alternatives.

✓ He was always sending emails at midnight expecting immediate replies.

Tentative / Polite Language:

✓ I was wondering if we might postpone the decision.

✓ We were thinking of approaching the board with a revised proposal.

✓ I was hoping to get your thoughts on the matter before the meeting.

Extended Narrative:

✓ The data had been corrupted. Files were being recovered as the team worked through the night.

✓ The investigation had stalled. Key witnesses were being reinterviewed and fresh evidence was being sought.

✓ Records had been sealed. A journalist was reviewing documents that had been leaked anonymously.

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation

1. A: I ____ if you had a moment to discuss something sensitive.

✓ was wondering

2. B: Of course. I ____ to catch up with you today anyway.

✓ was hoping

3. A: Apparently client data ____ without authorisation last week.

✓ was being accessed

4. B: The logs ____ by the security team when I left last night.

✓ were being reviewed

5. A: One member of the team ____ outside normal working hours. It raised flags.

✓ was always logging in

6. B: We ____ of bringing in an external auditor. Would you support that?

✓ were thinking