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Past Continuous Passive is used to talk about actions that **were ongoing** at a particular moment in the past. The emphasis is **on the process**.

- *When Jack arrived to the workshop his car **was still being repaired**.*
- *The students **were being taught** grammar all day long.*
- *The dancers **were being watched** by a jury of experts.*

Past Continuous Passive structure

To remember the structure of the Passive Voice in Past Continuous, let's compare it with the [Active Voice](#) structure.

[subject] + was/were + -ing verb

To make statements with the **Past Continuous Passive**, use:

was/were + being + the [Past Participle](#) form of the verb

Past Continuous Passive

Active voice

The teacher was explaining **the answers**.

subject

object

Passive voice

The answers were being explained **(by the teacher)**.

Subject

Agent (optional)

via <https://grammarworkshop.weebly.com/>

Singular

Plural

I **was being listened**

We **were being listened**

You **were being listened**

You **were being listened**

He/she/it **was being listened** They **were being listened**

- The new operator **was being shown** how to use the processing machine.
- A novel **was being written** by her.

When to use Past Continuous Passive

We use Past Continuous Passive to describe actions or events happening at a definite moment in the past when we want to focus attention on the person or thing affected by the action, when the subject is unknown, unclear or irrelevant or when we talk about general truths.

- When John was ill, he **was being taught** at home.
- The man **was always being told** what to do.
- All I can tell you is that a ship **was being scheduled** to land.

Here's a good video from Ustazy that illustrates the difference between Past Continuous active and passive voice:

Negative forms of Past Continuous Passive

To make a negative form of Past Continuous Passive, insert '**not**' between 'was/were' and 'being' (you can also use 'wasn't' or 'weren't').

- The streets **were not being cleaned** throughout the whole last week.
- The interview **wasn't being held** in the office.

Questions in Past Continuous Passive

The structure for asking questions in Past Continuous Passive is:

was/were + [subject] + being + Past Participle

- What music **was being played** when we came to the park?

- **Were** you **being helped** by Jamie?

See also:

[Past Continuous: Statements](#)

[Present Continuous Passive](#)

[Passive Voice: Overview](#)