

Translating present and past continuous (past progressive) verbs

We know now that the ending of a Latin verb not only tells us **WHO** is doing the verb, but also **WHEN** the verb happened.

present tense (action is happening now)		past continuous (past progressive) tense (action was happening over a period of time in the past)
-o	I	-bam
-s	you	-bas
-t	he/she/it	-bat
-mus	we	-bamus
-tis	y'all/you (plural)	-batis
-nt	they	-bant

Exercise 1

Sort the words below into the correct tense groups. The first one has been done to show you how.

~~amabam~~ amant consumebas consumitis
 audimus audiebat habebamus curabamus habes
 curris videbatis video dabant
 vocant currebatis curamus dat vocabam

present tense		past continuous (past progressive) tense	
amant	vocant	amabam	dabant
consumitis	curamus	consumebas	currebatis
audimus	dat	audiebat	vocabam
habes		habebamus	
curris		curabamus	
video		videbatis	

Exercise 2

Translate the following Latin verbs. Watch out, there's a mixture of present and past continuous, so take a look at the ending to see:

- when the verb is happening
- who's doing it

Then look at the beginning of the verb to see what's happening (use your word lists if you need help with the verb meaning). The first one has been done to show you how.

amat	he/she/it loves	habebam	I was having
consumebat	he/she/it was eating	habent	they have
consumis	you eat	videbatis	y'all/you (pl) were seeing
audiebant	they were listening	curabamus	we were looking after
audimus	we listen	curo	I look after
videtis	y'all/you (pl) see	vocas	you call
dabatis	y'all/you (pl) were giving	curris	you run
das	you give	vocabas	you were calling
currebat	he/she/it was running	amabant	they were loving

Exercise 3

These sentences are all in the past continuous tense. Translate them. Tip: look at the verb first to see

- who's doing the action
- if there's a subject
- if there's an object

1. porcum curabam I was looking after the pig.
2. regina magam audiebat The queen was hearing the witch.
3. feminae equos amabant The women were loving the horses.
4. aquam dabatis Y'all were giving water.
5. medicum vocabas You were calling the doctor.

Exercise 4 (extension)

These sentences contain either a past continuous verb, or a present verb. Translate the sentences. Tip: look at the verb first to see:

- when the verb is happening
- who's doing the action
- if there's a subject
- if there's an object

1. feminae vaccas curant The women look after the cows.
2. stellas videbamus We were seeing the stars.
3. regina equum amat The queen loves the horse.
4. per campos currebamus We were running through the fields.
5. medicus bonus magam malam vocabat The good doctor was calling the bad witch.
6. vacca sordida in villa bella currebat The dirty cow was running in the beautiful house.

Exercise 5 (extension)

Can you make one sentence (or more!) containing a past continuous verb? Don't forget to write the English translation underneath.