

## Past continuous tense – the next level

**Part 1: The verb 'esse' ('to be') looks like this in the present tense...**

**...and like this in the past continuous.**

<i>present</i>			
I am	<b>sum</b>	we are	<b>sumus</b>
you are	<b>es</b>	y'all are	<b>estis</b>
he/she/it is	<b>est</b>	they are	<b>sunt</b>

<i>past continuous</i>			
I was	<b>eram</b>	we were	<b>eramus</b>
you were	<b>eras</b>	y'all were	<b>eratis</b>
he/she/it was	<b>erat</b>	they were	<b>erant</b>

### Exercise 1

For the Latin sentences below, find the part of the verb 'esse' and circle it. Next, tick the box to show whether it is past continuous or present tense. Finally, translate the sentence. The first two have been done for you.

1. paratus **eram.**

*I was ready.*

2. medici regis **estis?**

*Y'all are the king's doctors?*

3. fratres sumus.

4. mater in horto erat.

5. duces cauti sunt.

6. quieta eras.

7. sub aqua eramus.

8. fabula sororis non vera est!

9. validus sum.

10. canis et equus in campo erant.

*present*      *past continuous*

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**Part 2: Sometimes, the past continuous verbs sound best translated into English as “used to” rather than ‘was ...ing.’**

<i>past continuous endings</i>			
I	<b>bam</b>	we	<b>bamus</b>
you	<b>bas</b>	y'all	<b>batis</b>
he/she/it	<b>bat</b>	they	<b>bant</b>

### Exercise 2

For the Latin sentences below, find the past continuous verb and circle it. Then translate the sentence using ‘used to’ rather than ‘was ...ing.’ New words are underlined and their English meanings can be found on the right hand side of the page. The first one has been done to show you how.

1. in villa matris habitabam.

*I used to live in mum's house.*

2. frater meus me semper vexabat.

3. in taberna nova laborabas.

4. milites cotidie pugnabant.

5. ad scholam ambulabamus.

6. tacebam sed nunc multas fabulas narro.

7. frequenter montes ascendebatis.

8. femina suaviter cantabat.

9. reges iuste non regebant.

### words to help

**meus** my  
**me** me  
**semper** always

**cotidie** every day

**schola** school

**nunc** now  
**multi** many

**frequenter** often

**suaviter** sweetly,  
pleasantly

**iuste** fairly,  
justly