

Subject-Verb Agreement in Present and Past Continuous

Quick reminder:

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<u>1st person:</u>	I	We
<u>2nd person:</u>	You	You
<u>3rd person:</u>	He, She, It	They

- Other examples of 3rd person in **singular** : Government, syllabus, discrimination
- Other examples of 3rd person in **plural** : Currencies, exports, goods and services

When constructing a sentence, the noun and the verb have to agree.

In different tenses the nouns and verbs agree differently:

Present Continuous Tense

Present continuous tense expresses an ongoing action in the present time.

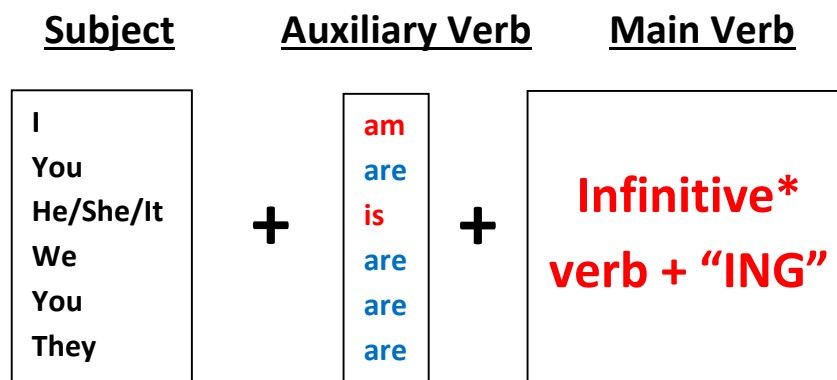
Present continuous tense is a compound tense, the verb of which consists of two parts:

- **Auxiliary verb** “to be” (otherwise known as the **helping verb**)
- Main Verb + “ing”

The construction of the main verb for any type of subject remains the same.

➔ **Therefore, the subject has to agree with the auxiliary verb only.**

For present continuous, the auxiliary verb “to be” has to be conjugated in present simple tense.



Examples: I am preparing to give a speech in the assembly.

The **government** is working on another fiscal policy that will stimulate the economy.

All **people** worldwide are willing to solve the situation in Syria and Ukraine to preserve peace around the world.

Past Continuous Tense

Past continuous tense expresses an ongoing action that was performed in the past at a specific time

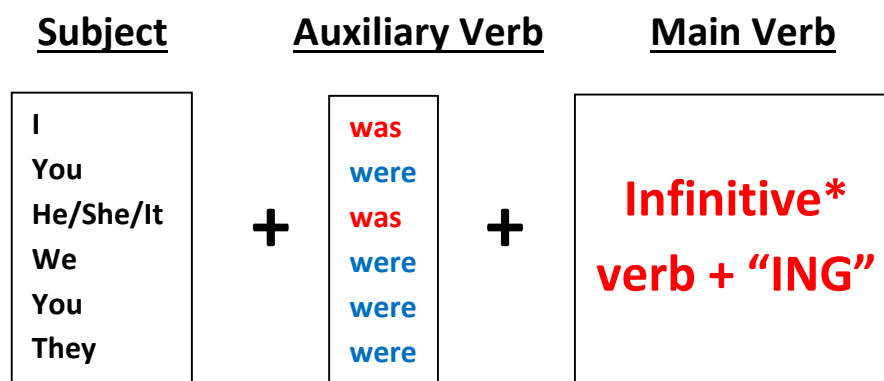
Past continuous tense is also a compound tense, the verb of which consists of two parts:

- **Auxiliary verb** “to be” (otherwise known as the **helping verb**)
- Main Verb + “ing”

The construction of the main verb for any type of subject remains the same also.

→ Therefore, the subject has to agree with the auxiliary verb only.

For past continuous, the auxiliary verb “to be” has to be conjugated in past simple tense.



Examples: I was going home to pick up my passport when I saw Ann walking on the street.

The **computer** was working as usual until the virus killed the system.

Black **people** were fighting against racial discrimination in the 1960s.

* **Infinitive verb** is the form of the verb which appears in the dictionaries (e.g. to learn, prepare, interpret, dedicate, etc.)