

# Speakout Advanced p 9. THE CONTINUOUS ASPECT. Extra Exercise

Describe an action following these instructions

1. an action happening now

E.g. The builders \_\_\_\_\_ (mend) the roof

The builders **are mending** the roof  
**(present continuous)**

2. an action not necessarily happening at the moment but occurring about this time

E.g. My husband \_\_\_\_\_ (rebuild) the garage

My husband **is rebuilding** the garage  
**(present continuous)**

3. a future arranged action

E.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) John on Monday

I **am meeting** John on Monday  
**(present continuous)**

4. a frequently occurring action which annoys the speaker

E.g. She \_\_\_\_\_ (always, leave) the front door open.

She **is always leaving** the front door open  
**(present continuous)**

5. a temporary action

E.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (currently, juggle) three jobs and a family.

I **am currently juggling** three jobs, my children's needs and the household chores.  
**(present continuous)**

6. an action which began in the past and is still continuing emphasising duration

E.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (expect) a call from my solicitor all day.

I **have been expecting** a call from my solicitor all day.  
**(present perfect continuous)**

7. a continuous past action

E.g. It \_\_\_\_\_ (snow) heavily all day yesterday so I drove carefully

It **was snowing** heavily all day yesterday so I drove carefully  
**(past continuous)**

8. a frequently repeated action in the past

E.g. My old car \_\_\_\_\_ (always, break) down.

My old car **was always breaking** down  
**(past continuous)**

9. an interrupted past action (first action interrupted by second)

E.g. He \_\_\_\_\_ (race) down the motorway when a tyre burst.

He **was racing** down the motorway when a tyre burst.

**race:** move fast.  
**(past continuous)**

10. two actions in the past occurring simultaneously

E.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the windscreen while they \_\_\_\_\_ (put) the luggage in the boot.

I **was cleaning** the windscreen while they **were putting** the luggage in the boot.

**boot:** the space at the back of a car that you put bags, cases, etc. in  
**bonnet:** the metal part over the front of a vehicle, usually covering the engine.  
**(past continuous)**

11. an intention in the past

E.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a car but I didn't have enough money

I **was going to buy** a car but I didn't have enough money  
**(past continuous)**

12. a request without being direct

E.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (wonder) if I could have a lift home

I **was wondering** if I could borrow some money  
**(past continuous)**

13. a continuous past action completed before another past action

E.g. He \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) all day, so he was very tired when he arrived

He **had been driving** all day, so he was very tired when he arrived  
**(past perfect continuous)**

14. an action which in progress at a certain time in the future

E.g. This time next week, we \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to the BBC

This time next week, we **will be listening** to the BBC  
**(future continuous)**

15. an action which began before a certain future time and is not over

E.g. By next month I \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) English for 25 years

By next month I **will have been teaching** English for 25 years  
**(future perfect continuous)**