



SPaG Starters **Continuous Tense**

When we describe something that is still happening, either in the past, present or future, we use the continuous tense. This involves the past, present or future form of 'to be', followed by an -ing word.

e.g.

I sat down. = simple past tense.

I was sitting down. = past continuous tense.

You cannot mix the two tenses. So:

I was sat down. = incorrect.



In each of these sentences, the writer is trying to describe something that was continuing – it was not a completed action. But they have mixed up their continuous and past tenses. Can you spot the mistakes and correct them?

1. I am sang a song to the judges when they interrupt me.

2. I was stood waiting for the bus when the car went past.

3. They are lay on the ground when it happens.

4. Where were you sat when the man came in?

5. We'll be stood in the corridor waiting for the teacher.



SPaG Starters **Continuous Tense** **Answers**

1. I am singing a song to the judges when they interrupt me.
2. I was standing waiting for the bus when the car went past.
3. They are lying on the ground when it happens.
4. Where were you sitting when the man came in?
5. We'll be standing in the corridor waiting for the teacher.

