



Past Continuous: Negative Forms: wasn't/weren't + -ing

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I ____ (not/sleep) at midnight. I was watching a movie.
a) wasn't sleeping
b) weren't sleeping
c) am not sleeping
d) didn't sleep
- She ____ (not/listen) to the teacher. She was texting.
a) wasn't listening
b) isn't listening
c) weren't listening
d) didn't listen
- They ____ (not/work) yesterday afternoon. They were on holiday.
a) didn't work
b) weren't working
c) wasn't working
d) aren't working
- He ____ (not/pay) attention during the meeting.
a) isn't paying
b) weren't paying
c) didn't pay
d) wasn't paying
- We ____ (not/wait) for you. We were waiting for Tom.
a) didn't wait
b) weren't waiting
c) aren't waiting
d) wasn't waiting
- It ____ (not/rain) when I left home.
a) weren't raining
b) isn't raining
c) didn't rain
d) wasn't raining
- You ____ (not/drive) fast enough. That's why we were late.
a) didn't drive
b) aren't driving
c) weren't driving
d) wasn't driving
- The children ____ (not/behave) well at the restaurant.
a) wasn't behaving
b) aren't behaving
c) weren't behaving
d) didn't behave
- My phone ____ (not/work) properly yesterday.
a) wasn't working
b) isn't working
c) weren't working
d) didn't work
- The students ____ (not/study). They were chatting.
a) didn't study
b) wasn't studying
c) aren't studying
d) weren't studying
- I ____ (not/joke). I was being serious.
a) didn't joke
b) weren't joking
c) am not joking
d) wasn't joking

12. The dog ____ (not/bark) at the stranger. It was wagging its tail.
a) wasn't barking
b) isn't barking
c) didn't bark
d) weren't barking
13. My parents ____ (not/argue). They were discussing calmly.
a) weren't arguing
b) didn't argue
c) wasn't arguing
d) aren't arguing
14. She ____ (not/wear) a coat, so she got cold.
a) isn't wearing
b) wasn't wearing
c) weren't wearing
d) didn't wear
15. The sun ____ (not/shine). It was cloudy all day.
a) didn't shine
b) wasn't shining
c) weren't shining
d) isn't shining
16. Tom and Sarah ____ (not/dance). They were sitting at the table.
a) wasn't dancing
b) aren't dancing
c) weren't dancing
d) didn't dance
17. The baby ____ (not/cry). It was sleeping peacefully.
a) didn't cry
b) isn't crying
c) wasn't crying
d) weren't crying
18. I ____ (not/lie) to you. I was telling the truth.
a) am not lying
b) weren't lying
c) wasn't lying
d) didn't lie
19. They ____ (not/expect) so many guests.
a) wasn't expecting
b) aren't expecting
c) didn't expect
d) weren't expecting
20. He ____ (not/try) hard enough. He was just pretending.
a) isn't trying
b) wasn't trying
c) weren't trying
d) didn't try



Answers

1. a) wasn't sleeping
2. a) wasn't listening
3. b) weren't working
4. d) wasn't paying
5. b) weren't waiting
6. d) wasn't raining
7. c) weren't driving
8. c) weren't behaving
9. a) wasn't working
10. d) weren't studying
11. d) wasn't joking
12. a) wasn't barking
13. a) weren't arguing
14. b) wasn't wearing
15. b) wasn't shining
16. c) weren't dancing
17. c) wasn't crying
18. c) wasn't lying
19. d) weren't expecting
20. b) wasn't trying



Explanations

1. “wasn't sleeping” (a)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'I' to form the negative.

2. “wasn't listening” (a)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'she' to form the negative.

3. “weren't working” (b)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with 'they' to form the negative.

4. “wasn't paying” (d)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'he' to form the negative.

5. “weren't waiting” (b)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with 'we' to form the negative.

6. “wasn't raining” (d)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'it' to form the negative.

7. “weren't driving” (c)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with 'you' to form the negative.

8. “weren't behaving” (c)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with plural subjects like 'the children' (= they).

9. “wasn't working” (a)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'my phone' (= it).

10. “weren't studying” (d)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with 'the students' (= they).

11. “wasn't joking” (d)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'I' to form the negative.

12. “wasn't barking” (a)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'the dog' (= it).

13. “weren't arguing” (a)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with 'my parents' (= they).

14. “wasn't wearing” (b)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'she' to form the negative.

15. “wasn't shining” (b)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'the sun' (= it).

16. “weren't dancing” (c)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with compound subjects like 'Tom and Sarah' (= they).

17. “wasn't crying” (c)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'the baby' (= it).

18. “wasn't lying” (c)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'I'. Note: lie → lying (drop the 'ie', add 'y' + ing).

19. “weren't expecting” (d)

Use 'weren't' + -ing with 'they' to form the negative.

20. “wasn't trying” (b)

Use 'wasn't' + -ing with 'he'. Note: try → trying.