



Past Continuous bad habits

Choose one of the actions below and do it or pretend to do it until your teacher says "Stop!" Look around the classroom while you are doing your action and try to remember what other people are doing. When the teacher shouts out, test your partner on what the other people in the classroom were doing at that time.

- spinning your pen round and round between your fingers
- sharpening pencils
- cleaning your eraser by rubbing it on the table
- polishing your fingernails
- coughing
- sighing
- yawning
- staring out of the window
- sniffing
- blowing your nose
- drumming your fingers on the table
- chewing your fingernails
- scratching
- applying make up
- flicking through your book
- tapping your foot on the floor
- kicking your table
- kicking someone else's chair
- crossing and recrossing your legs
- fidgeting
- picking your nose
- picking your teeth
- cleaning your teeth with your tongue
- sticking your finger in your ear
- cleaning the sleep from your eyes



Do the same, but this time doing a range of actions one after another. When your teacher shouts “Stop”, he or she will test you just on the actions that were happening at that time. You will therefore have to keep looking around the classroom as you do your actions.

Discussion

- Which of the things above do you find annoying or disgusting?
- Which ones are okay, but not in the classroom?
- What other bad habits do people often dislike? Which ones do you feel strongly about?

Roleplay speaking game

Complain about the person who used to sit next to you at school using the Past Continuous. Take turns with your partner and try to make each complaint more extreme than the last one. Continue until one of you runs out of ideas, then discuss whose ex-classmate sounds worse.

Grammar discussion

First use of the Past Continuous

Present Continuous/ Past Continuous

Why did you use the Past Continuous in the first and second games you played (the miming games)? How could you change the game to use the Present Continuous instead? How are the uses of the Present Continuous and Past Continuous similar to and different from each other?

Past Simple/ Past Continuous

How would your answers change if your teacher asked you the Past Simple question “What did Giovanni do?” rather than the Past Continuous question “What was Giovanni doing (when I told you to stop)?” What are the similarities and differences between the uses of the Past Simple and Past Continuous?

Second use of the Past Continuous

Why did you use the Past Continuous in the roleplay conversation about classmates? What other tenses could you use? How would that change the meaning and impact of what you say?