

# Lesson 12

## Past Continuous Tense

The past continuous tense expresses an action that was being done sometime in the past, as in "I was writing Lesson 12 the whole morning". It requires another statement that preceded or follows it in order to make sense. "When you came yesterday, I was writing Lesson 11".

### Example 12.1

**enti enterdu grara (last night) an sans'A Qu erguKwn**  
I was eating a bread when you came last night.

**enti genjru ergruKw** You were sleeping  
**gaim mihrotl feru erguKw** Gaim was going to school

**seKwa arbed yn blin kntnu erg`nKwn**  
We were studying Blin studies for three months

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st Person Singular:         | -u + erguKwn     |
| 2nd Person Singular:         | -du + ergruKw    |
| 3rd Person Singular (masc.): | -u + erguKw      |
| 3rd Person Singular (Fem.):  | -du + ergti      |
| 1st Person Plural:           | -nu + erg`nKwn   |
| 2nd Person Plural:           | -dunu + ergdnuKw |
| 3rd Person Plural:           | -unu + ergnuKw   |

### Example 12.2

The past continuous tense of the verb ferna, to go, is (I was going, you were going, he/she was going, we/you/they were going) Observe that:

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1st Person Singular:         | <b>an Asmara feru erguKwn</b><br>I was going to Asmara          |
| 2nd Person Singular:         | <b>enti Asmara ferdu ergruKw</b><br>You were going to Asmara    |
| 3rd Person Singular (masc.): | <b>Gaim Asmara feru erguKw</b><br>Gaim was going to Asmara      |
| 3rd Person Singular (Fem.):  | <b>nri Asmara ferdu ergti</b><br>She was going to Asmara        |
| 1st Person Plural:           | <b>yn Asmara fernu erg`nKwn</b><br>We were going to Asmara      |
| 2nd Person Plural:           | <b>entn Asmara ferdunu ergdnuKw</b><br>You were going to Asmara |
| 3rd Person Plural:           | <b>naw Asmara ferunu erg`nuKw</b><br>They were going to Asmara  |

1. The 1st Person Singular has the same suffix form (-u) as the 3rd Person Singular (masc.) has: **an feru erguKwn** (I was going). **ni feru erguKw** (He was going). The continuous form **feru** is the same in both.
2. The 2nd Person Singular (fem, masc.) and the 3rd Person Singular (Fem.) also have the same suffix form (-du). **enti ferdu ergruKw** (you were going). **nri ferdu ergti** (she was going).