

The Liberator of Nations

Intermediate ESL Self-Study Worksheet

Grammar Focus: Past Continuous Tense, Relative Clauses (who, that, when), Conjunctions (Cause and Effect, Contrast, and Sequence)

Part 1: Past Continuous Tense

Explanation:

The past continuous tense is used to describe actions that were in progress at a specific time in the past. It is formed with:

Subject + was/were + verb-ing

Examples:

Simón Bolívar was studying in Europe when he met his future wife.

The revolutionaries were fighting for independence while the Spanish forces were trying to maintain control.

Practice Activity:

Complete the sentences using the past continuous tense.

While Bolívar _____ (travel) in Europe, he _____ (learn) about revolutionary ideas.

The people of Venezuela _____ (suffer) under Spanish rule while Bolívar _____ (plan) the revolution.

When María Teresa _____ (fall) ill, Bolívar _____ (care) for her.

Part 2: Relative Clauses (who, that, when)

Explanation:

Relative clauses provide extra information about a noun. Use:

who for people

that for things or people

when for time

Examples:

Simón Bolívar, who was born in Venezuela, became a great leader.

The ideas that Bolívar learned in Europe inspired him.

The year when Bolívar married María Teresa was 1802.

Practice Activity:

Combine the sentences using who, that, or when.

Simón Bolívar was a revolutionary leader. He fought for South American independence.

→ Simón Bolívar, _____ fought for South American independence, was a revolutionary leader.

The Manifiesto of Cartagena was a document. It outlined Bolívar's vision for liberation.

→ The Manifiesto of Cartagena was a document _____ outlined Bolívar's vision for liberation.

1808 was the year. Napoleon invaded Spain in that year.

→ 1808 was the year _____ Napoleon invaded Spain.

Part 3: Conjunctions (Cause and Effect, Contrast, and Sequence)

Explanation:

Conjunctions connect ideas and show relationships between clauses.

Cause and Effect: because, since, so

Contrast: although, even though, but

Sequence: after, before, when

Examples:

Cause and Effect: Bolívar fought for independence because he wanted freedom for his people.

Contrast: Although Bolívar faced many challenges, he never gave up.

Sequence: After Bolívar returned to Venezuela, he joined the independence movement.

Practice Activity:

Choose the correct conjunction to complete the sentences.

_____ Bolívar was young, he showed signs of leadership. (Although / After / Because)

Bolívar traveled to Europe _____ he could continue his education. (so / but / although)

_____ the Spanish forces were strong, the revolutionaries kept fighting. (Even though / After / So)

_____ Bolívar wrote the Manifesto of Cartagena, he returned to Venezuela. (Before / Because / Although)

Answer Key

Part 1: Past Continuous Tense

While Bolívar was traveling in Europe, he was learning about revolutionary ideas.

The people of Venezuela were suffering under Spanish rule while Bolívar was planning the revolution.

When María Teresa was falling ill, Bolívar was caring for her.

Part 2: Relative Clauses

Simón Bolívar, who fought for South American independence, was a revolutionary leader.

The Manifiesto of Cartagena was a document that outlined Bolívar's vision for liberation.

1808 was the year when Napoleon invaded Spain.

Part 3: Conjunctions

Although Bolívar was young, he showed signs of leadership.

Bolívar traveled to Europe so he could continue his education.

Even though the Spanish forces were strong, the revolutionaries kept fighting.

Before Bolívar wrote the Manifiesto of Cartagena, he returned to Venezuela.