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**Skill focus areas: grammar**

**Past Continuous**

I. Read and answer.

**A new DVD is released. Your parents have seen the movie, and they tell you you're not allowed to watch it. While you’re hanging out at your friend's house, she tells you that she has the movie, that her mom says it's okay to watch it, and that she wants to watch it with you. What do you do?**

II. Past Continuous

**Form? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Make sentences.

**(wait) I**
**(sit) She**
**(rotate) It**
**(deliver)You**
**(gossip) They**
**(be) We**

III. Why?

1. ****

◊ A longer action in the past that was interrupted.
a. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the past simple.
b. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

e.g. You weren’t listening to me when I told you to read the recipe beforehand.
e.g. The two planes flew into the World Trade Towers while I was sitting in grade 11 Biology.
e.g.

e.g.

2. ****

◊ A longer action in the past that was interrupted by a specific point in time.
a. Very similar to #1.

e.g. At midnight, four hours after we left, we were still driving through Tokyo.
e.g. Tonya was vacationing in Europe this time last month.
e.g.

e.g.

3.****

◊ Two long actions happening at the same time in the past.

e.g. While I was waiting patiently for her in the library, my lab partner was eating lunch with friends at What the Bagel.
e.g. What were you doing while you were waiting?
e.g.

e.g.

4.

◊ use a series of parallel actions to describe the atmosphere at a particular time in the past.

e.g. When I walked into the office, several people **were** busily **typing**, some **were talking** on the phones, the boss **was yelling** directions, and customers **were waiting** to be helped. One customer **was yelling** at a secretary and **waving** his hands. Others **were complaining** to each other about the bad service.

e.g.

5. ****

◊ With words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happened in the past.

e.g. He **was constantly talking**. He annoyed everyone.

e.g. “Be quiet, Marlene!  You’re always gossiping about everyone!” yelled Jill.

e.g.

IV. Review. What are the five ways to use the past continuous?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.