****Trouble Spots: *Simple vs. progressive tenses***

Additional exercises: Solutions

1. These fields belong to Farmer Spud.

* *They belong to him as a rule, not just now for the moment.*
1. Stephen went to Italy in 2015, and in 2016 he visited France.
* neutral information, no action in progress
1. What do you think about the boss’s plan to move the company?
* The speaker asks for his/her partner’s opinion (no momentary thoughts)
1. Normally she lives in Glasgow….
* permanent state, not just at the moment; signal word ‘normally’

…. but at the moment she is staying with friends in Dover.

* action in progress now, at the moment (signal word)
1. Could you call later, please? I’m doing my homework.
* action in progress at this time
1. I was tidying up my room when I noticed a spider on the ceiling.
* action in progress at a certain point of time in the past (i.e. noticing the spider)
1. We are making scones. Would you like to join us?
* action in progress at this moment
1. We were chatting when the robbers came into the bank.
* action in progress at a certain point of time in the past (i.e. the robbers coming in)
1. Why didn’t you call earlier? Look, I have been waiting for your call for three hours now!!!
* progressive because the focus is on an uninterrupted action (waiting)
1. He likes to dress well. That’s why he always wears a tie.
* permanent state/general rule; signal word ‘always’