

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.*
2. Stephen **went** to Italy in 2015, and in 2016 he **visited** France.
⇒ *neutral information, no action in progress*
3. 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)*
4. 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)*
5. Could you call later, please? **I'm doing** my homework.
⇒ *action in progress at this time*
6. 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)*
7. We **are making** scones. Would you like to join us?
⇒ *action in progress at this moment*
8. 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)*
9. 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)*
10. He likes to dress well. That's why he always **wears** a tie.
⇒ *permanent state/general rule; signal word 'always'*