

March 9, 2010

How do I sound? Is the sound okay?

I'm going to try something new today.

I'll be using a voice recognition system.

Sometimes when I speak the computer will print exactly what I say.

Can everyone see my screen?

Okay

Tonight will practice the past continuous tense. That's the lesson for tomorrow on the yellow level.

Do you know how to make the past continuous tense?

You need to use the verb "be" and the main verb plus "ing."

The main verb "be" is in the past tense:

was or were

I was working last night.

What were you doing last night?

Anyone can answer that question.

You can type your answer to that question.

I was working until 2:00 a.m.

I was watching TV last night.

Last night I was reading about history.

Last night I was reading about American history.

I was studying English on my computer.

What were you doing just before you entered the webinar tonight?

I was sipping my tea. Very good

I was watching *Julia and Julia*.

I was ironing some clothes and studying English.

We were eating.

I was eating with family.

An hour ago, I was eating with my family.

An hour ago, I was having dinner with my family.

I was doing my online computer lesson on my computer just before I entered tonight's webinar.

I was watching a video on YouTube. It was a forum on the economic crisis. At the same time I was practicing my listening skills in English.

I was cooking before I came online.

How do you like the voice recognition system so far?

The past continuous tense.

Can you ask me a question in the past continuous tense?

What were you doing yesterday at 5:00 p.m.?

There is a period of time in the past when a person does something over time. So if I do something over the period of an hour in the

past, I'll use the past continuous tense.

Here's the answer to Dmitri's question:

I was making dinner.

or

I was working on my computer.

Who were you talking to before you entered the webinar?

My answer:

I wasn't talking to anyone.

What were you reading last night?

I was reading *Time* magazine last night.

What were you doing yesterday at noon?

I was teaching an English class.

I teach a class in the morning from 10:15 AM to 1 PM, Monday through Friday.

I was working yesterday.

Let's contrast the past continuous tense with the past tense:

What were you doing yesterday?

I was working.

What did you do yesterday?

I worked. Or... I was working.

Sometimes the past tense and the past continuous tense are interchangeable.

Do you see the differences in these questions?

I was cooking yesterday.

What were you cooking?

I was cooking fish and vegetables.

We were standing in my classroom when this picture was taken. (take / took / taken)  
(stand / stood / stood)

It was taken.

The picture was taken.

I can give the microphone over to someone here in the webinar. If you'd like to ask a question live, let me know right now.

Your computer requires a microphone to do that.

We tried this in the past and there were a few problems with the screen. I'm still learning how to use the technology for the webinar.

Loreta, do you want to ask me a question using your microphone? Does your computer have a microphone?

Do you want to ask the question using your microphone?

What does "credit" mean?

"Credit" can be money that you borrow or money that you can receive. "Credit" can be a form of reward for work that you do in school.

This is a good learning experience for everyone.

Can everyone still see my screen?

What is the difference between "instead of" and "rather than?"

I would like to play golf instead of baseball.

Rather than play baseball, I'd like to play golf.

Instead of playing baseball, I'd rather play golf.

Rather than playing baseball, I'd rather play golf.

Golf is the preferred sport.

I'll post the transcript after the webinar is over.

The nice thing about using text edit on the computer is it allows me to show students what we did in class. And so in class sometimes what I can do is I can print out the things that I say.

It's also good because it allows people to see the way that someone speaks English naturally. Speaking and writing are two different things. When I speak English, it's different from writing.

Reviewing is very helpful for students after class. You should try to review things at least once or twice.

I also think it's a good idea for you to write rather than click when you are using the website. Writing helps to improve memory.

So I would like to use the camera and the voice recognition system at the same time. So you

can see me speak and see the words at the same time.

How is the image on the video? How is the quality of the video?

Okay. Did you read my blog today? On the blog I showed how to make the "th" sound. There are two "th" sounds that are important in English.

There is the unvoiced "th" sound, and the voiced "th" sound.

third 33 bath math breath (unvoiced)

the, then, there, that, bathe, breathe (voiced)

That's on the blog for today. Do you follow the blog?

"breath" is a noun.

In the winter, I can see my breath.

He has bad breath.

"breathe" is a verb.  
I can't breathe.  
She's not breathing.

The next webinar is already scheduled for this  
Saturday at 11:00 to 12 noon.

This is an exciting thing for me to learn how to  
do as a teacher.

Have a good night, and I'll see you on Saturday.

Can everyone see my screen?





