



PAST CONTINUOUS

What were you doing last Thursday between 5 and 7pm?

Wentworth: Sarah? What were you doing last Thursday between 5 and 7pm?

Sarah: Between 5 and 7 pm?! Let me think...I can't remember. Wait a moment, please... I was at my friend's place. We were talking about current events when his younger brothers came in. They headed straight for his pantry and emptied it.

Wentworth: As if they were starving?

Sarah: As if they were starving to death, indeed. They were swallowing the food while he was telling them to stop. They said they couldn't afford to buy groceries. On top of that, they told him they weren't going to be picky about food... This irritated my friend.

Wentworth: What happened then?

Sarah: Since he is the elder brother, he didn't really mind. He overlooked their nasty comments because he feels it is his duty to act as their guardian as their parents do not live in the region.

Wentworth: That's a big brother!

Sarah: I guess. If it were me, I would let them starve or have them have a taste of their own medicine.

Wentworth: What do you mean?

Sarah: I kept thinking they were annoying. If you come to your brother's place, you should ask first and be grateful.

Wentworth: They said something tongue-in-cheek. We all behave differently when interacting with family, or close friends.

Sarah: Well, it was kind of funny because I have never seen my friend show such tender loving care.

Wentworth: that's brotherly love!



What were you doing last Thursday between 5 and 7pm?	SINCE
THURSDAY	The elder=the older
PM	To mind
'let me (think)'	To overlook
At <i>someone's</i> place	(nasty) comment
Current events	To feel
young	A duty
To come in	To act
To head for	As a + noun
A pantry	A guardian
straight	their
To empty	As + clause
'AS IF...'	A big brother
To starve (to death)	To guess
INDEED	'if it were me'

To swallow	'have a taste of one's medicine'
food	To keep + VING
WHILE...	To annoy
To tell /told/told	To ask
To tell someone TO DO	
To say	first
Could= past form of CAN	grateful
'CAN AFFORD TO (buy)'	Tongue-in-cheek
groceries	To behave
'on top of...'	To interact
Picky=choosy	close
To irritate	'Kind of + adjective'
WHAT HAPPENED ?	I have never seen= Present perfect
then	Tender loving care// Brotherly (love)



Grammar: PAST CONTINUOUS

a) We use the PAST CONTINUOUS (or preterit continuous) the PAST CONTINUOUS to refer to an action that was in progress(en cours). The rules for the continuous form applies for the past*.

The pattern is Be at the preterit (or past) followed by a verb ending in ING

PAST CONTINUOUS = **WAS / WERE + vING**

Action in progress	I was drinking beer between 5 and 6pm.
Temporary	At the time, I was working as a waitress
Near future	They were getting married the month after
Positive BIAS (subjective, to show emotions)	She was working hard
Negative BIAS with 'always' (subjective, to show irritation)	She was always nagging
Exceptions for other verbs (including verbs of mental activities, preferences and perceptions) ONLY AT THE SIMPLE FORM	They believed/thought/loved/preferred/heard/saw/belonged to...

b) We also use the PAST CONTINUOUS (or preterit continuous) when an action in the past is interrupted or simultaneous with another.

In such case, the action that first takes place chronologically is at the past continuous, the other at the preterit (simple past). It is common to use the simple form with WHEN.

Example:

I was having a shower when you called

There are 2 actions in this sentence: having a shower is the **1st action** , called is the second one.

c) WHILE

While usually implies an action in progress. It is more common to use the continuous form with WHILE.

Example: **While we were having** dinner, the telephone rang

I saw a cat **while I was taking** the trash(US)/ the rubbish(UK) out

d) Simultaneity and same duration

If the two actions have the same duration, we use the same form and tense for the two actions.

Example:

While I was taking out the trash, the dogs **were barking**

You **mopped** the floor **while I cooked** dinner