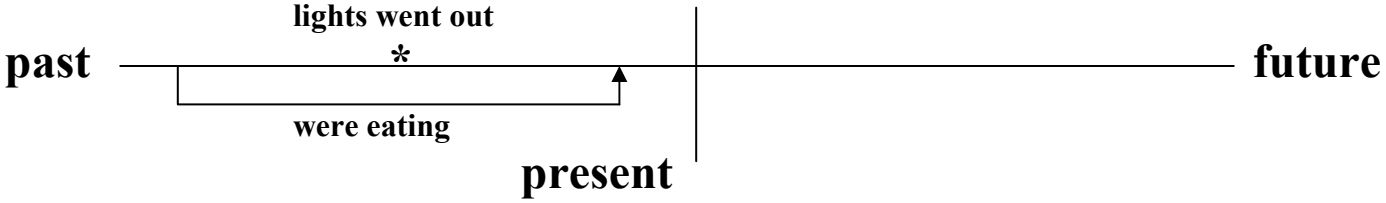
PAST CONTINUOUS

I. USAGE - actions that were IN PROGRESS at a specific time in the past. The focus is on the DURATION of the action NOT the completion.

A. SIMPLE PAST & PAST CONTINUOUS - Use these tenses together for an action that was INTERRUPTED by another action in the past.

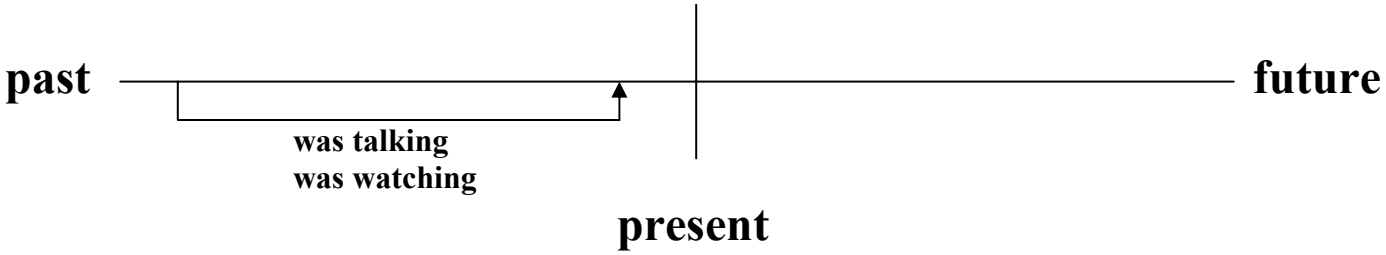
- Use *when* to introduce the simple past
- The simple past is always the interrupting action
- The past continuous is always the interrupted action



I ***was eating*** dinner when the lights ***went*** out.
past continuous — simple past

My parents ***were sleeping*** when the doorbell ***rang*.**
past continuous — simple past

II. PAST CONTINUOUS with *WHILE* - Use while to talk about two actions in progress at the same time.



While I ***was watching*** TV, my wife ***was talking*** on the phone.
past continuous — past continuous

My wife ***was talking*** on the phone while I ***was watching*** TV.
past continuous — past continuous