**The progressive forms of a verb indicate that something is happening or was happening or will be happening.**

When used with the past, the progressive form shows the limited duration of an event: **"While I was doing my homework, my brother came into my room."**

If we are trying to be dynamic writers (dynamic meaning two) we can try to offer open endings to our sentences by working on VERB CHOICE.

**“I was struggling with my homework when I was saved by my brother coming into the room.”**

This sentence not only suggests that something has happened, but also that something will be happening.

The past progressive also suggests that an action in the past was not entirely finished. (Compare "I did my homework." to "I was doing my homework.") This is even more evident in the passive progressive construction: "He was being strangled in the alley" **suggests an action** that was not finished, perhaps because the act was interrupted by a good citizen, whereas the simple past "He was strangled in the alley" suggests an action that was finished, unfortunately.

The progressive forms occur only with **dynamic verbs**, that is, with verbs that show qualities capable of change as opposed to **stative verbs**, which show qualities not capable of change.\* For instance, we do not say, "He is being tall" or "He is resembling his mother" or "I am wanting spaghetti for dinner" or "It is belonging to me." (We would say, instead: "He is tall," "He resembles his mother," "I want spaghetti," and "It belongs to me.")

Activity: Make one of these sentences dynamic.  
1. I am begging you. I was learning French. They will be playing upstairs.

2. Write a sentence about traffic using one of these verbs:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| change deteriorate | grow mature | slow down | widen |

3. Tell me about feeling bad by using any of these:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ache | feel | hurt | itch |

4. “I hate peas” Tell me about your perception of something, creating dynamic sentences by using any of these:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| abhor adore astonish believe desire detest dislike doubt feel forgive | guess hate hear imagine impress intend know like love mean | mind perceive please prefer presuppose realize recall recognize regard remember | satisfy see smell suppose taste think understand want wish |

5. Talk about relations by using these:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| be\* belong to concern consist of contain cost | depend on deserve equal fit have include | involve lack matter need owe own | possess require require resemble seem sound |