

**JEALOUS GUY** by John Lennon*Focus on: The Past Progressive—UEEG 3e Ch. 2*

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**Notes for the Teacher****1. Preparing the song**

Find the lyrics for John Lennon's "A Jealous Guy" on the Internet. Re-type the song lyrics and enlarge them so they are easy for two students to share. Cut the lyrics into strips for each line. It's okay to put repeated lines on a single strip. Put all the strips into envelopes and give each pair of students an envelope.

The original John Lennon/Yoko Ono video of the song is online at <http://youtube.com/watch?v=hVaCK2uXJk4&feature=related> Brian Ferry also does a version of the song which may have clearer vocals.

**2. Song background**

"Jealous Guy" was released in 1971. John Lennon had been one of the band "The Beatles" from the early 1960s until they broke up in 1970 and he pursued a solo career. Yoko Ono, featured in the video, was his wife and muse for many of John's later songs until John's murder in 1980.

**3. Grammar background**

This song features simple past and past progressive. The **Past Progressive** is used in the following situations:

- An unfinished action in progress in the past

*I **was dreaming** of the past.*

- To contrast two past activities, one of which began earlier and was in progress when the other occurred

*I **was dreaming** of the past when I began to lose control.*

- Two actions of duration were occurring simultaneously in the past

*I **was dreaming** of the past, and my heart **was beating** fast.*

**4. Vocabulary**

These are some of the words you may want to discuss during your lesson. The brief definition reflects only the usage implied in the song.

- **insecure** (adjective): Feeling unsure of one's self; lacking confidence
- **shiver** (verb/noun): The action of a person's body shaking from cold, fear, or exhaustion
- **catch your eye** (idiom): To get someone's attention by making eye contact with the person

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**Student Worksheet****While you listen**

1. Listen to the song once. How does the song make you feel? Why?
2. Now empty your envelope and turn all your lyric strips face up. Listen to the song again and put the lyric strips in the right order.
3. Listen to the song again. Check your answers. This time, sing along.

**After you listen**

1. Discuss the singer's mood and his feelings. Why do you think he is singing this song? What could have happened? What are his feelings now about his jealousy?
2. Focus on the grammar of the song. Identify the lyrics that use the past progressive. Why is the past progressive used in this situation? How would the meaning change if Lennon used only the simple past in this song?
3. Discuss the meaning of the idiomatic expressions found in these lines:

*I was trying to **catch your eye**.*

*I was **swallowing my pain**.*

Imagine some situations when a person would “catch someone’s eye” or “swallow his/her pain.”

4. The theme of the song is jealousy. In small groups, discuss this emotion. When does jealousy arise? How is jealousy bad? Is it ever good to be jealous? Is it possible for people to be completely free of jealousy? Should they be? Share stories if you want.
5. With a partner, create a role play (a short skit) with the theme of jealousy. It does not have to be a similar situation as the song. Prepare a dialogue between two people that uses past progressive and simple past. Act out the dialogue for the class.