



# DIALD

## November News Letter

**Building English Knowledge**  
**Fact-Opinion-Belief**

### **Loi Krathong**

*Loi Krathong* takes place on the evening of the full moon of the 12th month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar. In the western calendar this usually falls in November.

According to the *Royal Institute Dictionary* 1999, *loi* means 'to float', while *krathong* has various meanings, one of which is "a basket to be floated on water in the *LoiKrathongs* festival". The traditional krathong are made from a slice of the trunk of a banana tree or a spider lily plant. Modern krathongs are more often made of bread or styrofoam. A bread krathongs will disintegrate after a few days and can be eaten by fish. Banana stalk krathong are also biodegradable, but styrofoam krathongs are sometimes banned, as they pollute the rivers and may take years to decompose. A krathong is decorated with elaborately-folded banana leaves, incense sticks, and a candle. A small coin is sometimes included as an offering to the river

On the night of the full moon, Thais launch their krathong on a river, canal or a pond, making a wish as they do so. The festival may originate from an ancient ritual paying respect to the water spirits.

Government offices, corporations and other organizations bring large decorated krathongs. There are competitions for the best such krathong. A beauty contest is a

Loi Krathong is often claimed to have begun in the Sukhothai by a court lady named Nopphamat. However, it is now known that the Nopphamat tale comes from a poem written in the early Bangkok period. According to H.M. King Rama IV, writing in 1863, it was a Brahmanical festival that adapted by Thai Buddhists in Thailand to honor Buddha, Prince Siddhartha Gautama. The candle venerates the Buddha with

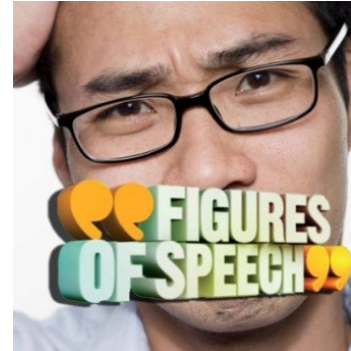
light, while the krathong's floating symbolizes letting go of all one's hatred, anger, and defilements. People sometime cut their fingernails or hair and placed the clippings on the krathong as a symbol of letting go of negative thoughts. However, many ordinary Thai use the krathong to thank the Goddess of Water, Phra Mae Khongkha.

## FIGURES OF SPEECH

To float an idea

[to suggest something informally to see if people accept it or are interested in it]

I want to float this idea about a new website for learning English.



ฉันต้องการแนะนำความคิดเรื่องการสร้างเว็บไซต์ใหม่เพื่อการเรียนรู้ภาษาอังกฤษ

That idea to build a river walkway doesn't float.

ความคิดในการสร้างทางเดินริมน้ำนั้นไม่ใช่แผนการที่ดี

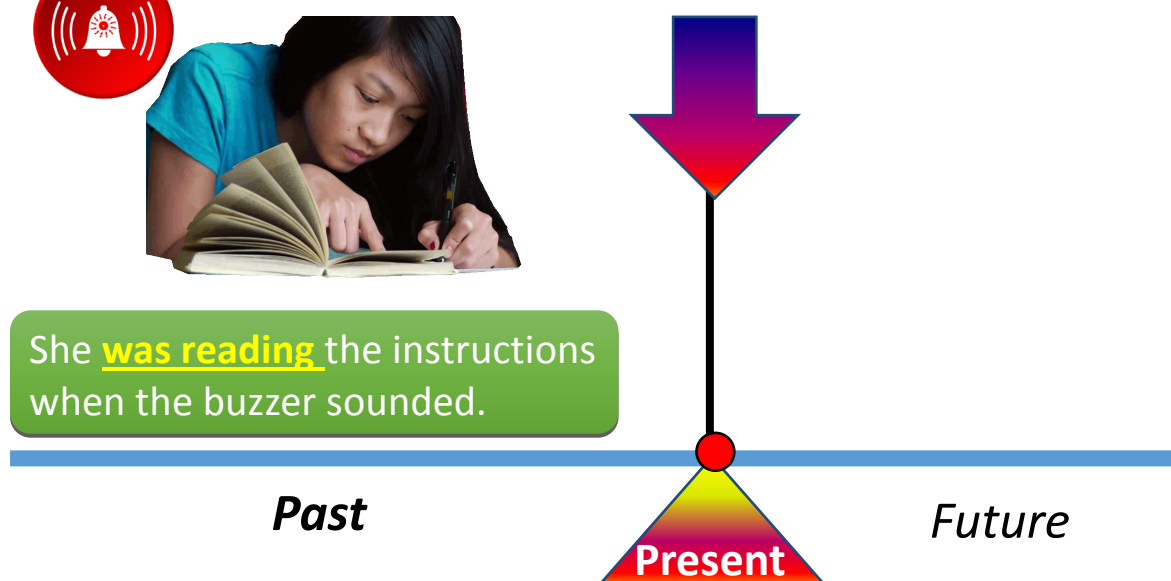
## Grammar Attack

*Do you understand?*

### PAST CONTINUOUS



She was reading the instructions when the buzzer sounded.



# Forming the Past Continuous

The **Past Continuous** is formed with the helping verb to be (was, were) *in past tense* and the "-ing" (*Present Participle*) form of the verb.

Subject	Helping verb	Verb	Present participle	
You / We / They	were	read	<u>-ing</u>	a book.
I / He / She / It	was	talk	<u>-ing</u>	the professor.

Robert was **driving** not his son.

I was **sleeping** while it was raining.

We were **hiking** in the woods last weekend.

## Vocabulary Build

andro-		human, male	androgynous, andragogy, androcentric, androspore	Professor Hiroshi Ishiguro was creating an android of himself.
			<b>Android - resembling a human; misandry - hatred towards men.</b>	
ante-		before, in front	antecede, antemeridian, antecessor, anteport	They were waiting for you in the anteroom after the concert.
			<b>Anteroom - a small room before the main room.</b>	
anthropo-		human	anthropomorphism, anthropology, anthropophobia	Bill Gates and Bill Clinton are famous Philanthropist. They give away millions of dollars to help others.
			<b>Philanthropist - one who loves humanity.</b>	
anti-	ant-	against, opposite of	antisocial, antiseptic, anticonformity, antidote	Without antibodies in our system, we would easily die from common germs.
			<b>Antibody - a substance that destroys micro-organisms.</b>	

# Fun with English

## Rebus Puzzle

-a kind of word puzzle that uses pictures to represent words or parts of words.



Top secret

What is the word or phrase expressed in the following rebus puzzle?

Answer to last week's rebus puzzle:



**"All over again"**

*[to start happening again]*

*(to begin an event again from the beginning)*

- We will have to review this all over again.

เราจะต้องทบทวนเรื่องนี้อีกครั้ง

What is the word or phrase expressed in the following rebus puzzle?



*(The answer to the Puzzle will be in the next issue.)*

Quote of the Month

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." —Mahatma Gandhi