PRESENT CONTINUOUS

A Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She **is driving** to work.

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
The action is not finished.

Am/is/are + -ing is the *present continuous:*

I	**am**	(= I'**m**)	**driving**
he/she/it	**is**	(= he'**s** etc.)	**working**
we/you/they	**are**	(= we'**re** etc.)	**doing** etc.

B **I am doing** something = I'm in the middle of doing it; I've started doing it and I haven't finished:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He**'s having** a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- *(at a party)* Hi, Jane. **Are** you **enjoying** the party? (*not* Do you enjoy)
- What's all that noise? What**'s going** on? (= What's happening?)

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:

I'm reading a really good book at the moment.
It's about a man who ...

Steve is not reading the book at the time of speaking.
He means that he has started it, but has not finished it yet.
He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she**'s learning** Italian. (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

- A: You**'re working hard today**. (*not* You work hard today)
  B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

D We use the present continuous when we talk about changes happening around now, especially with these verbs:

get **change** **become** **increase** **rise** **fall** **grow** **improve** **begin** **start**

- **Is** your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but **I'm beginning** to enjoy it now. (*not* I begin)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

1.1 **The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?**

1 Please don't make so much noise.	a It's getting late.	1 f
2 I need to eat something soon.	b They're lying.	2 .....
3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.	c It's starting to rain.	3 .....
4 We need to leave soon.	d They're trying to sell it.	4 .....
5 They don't need their car any more.	e I'm getting hungry.	5 .....
6 Things are not so good at work.	f ~~I'm trying to work.~~	6 .....
7 It isn't true what they said.	g I'm looking for an apartment.	7 .....
8 We're going to get wet.	h The company is losing money.	8 .....

1.2 **Complete the conversations.**

1 A: I saw Brian a few days ago.
B: Oh, did you? What's he doing these days? (what / he / do)
A: He's at university.
B: ..... ? (what / he / study)
A: Psychology.
B: ..... it? (he / enjoy)
A: Yes, he says it's a very good course.

2 A: Hi, Nicola. How ..... ? (your new job / go)
B: Not bad. It wasn't so good at first, but ..... better now. (it / get)
A: What about Daniel? Is he OK?
B: Yes, but ..... his work right now. (he / not / enjoy)
He's been in the same job for a long time and ..... to get bored with it. (he / begin)

1.3 **Put the verb into the correct form, positive (I'm doing etc.) or negative (I'm not doing etc.).**

1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) any more.
3 You can turn off the radio. ..... (I / listen) to it.
4 Kate phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France. ..... (she / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
5 I want to lose weight, so this week ..... (I / eat) lunch.
6 Andrew has just started evening classes. ..... (he / learn) Japanese.
7 Paul and Sally have had an argument. ..... (they / speak) to each other.
8 ..... (I / get) tired. I need a rest.
9 Tim ..... (work) today. He's taken the day off.
10 ..... (I / look) for Sophie. Do you know where she is?

1.4 **Complete the sentences using the following verbs:**

start **get** **~~increase~~** **change** **rise**

1 The population of the world is increasing very fast.
2 The world ..... . Things never stay the same.
3 The situation is already bad and it ..... worse.
4 The cost of living ..... . Every year things are more expensive.
5 The weather ..... to improve. The rain has stopped, and the wind isn't as strong.

LIVEWORKSHEETS