

### 3-7 USING THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TO EXPRESS FUTURE TIME

(a) Tom **is going to come** to the party tomorrow.  
 (b) Tom **is coming** to the party tomorrow.  
 (c) We're **going to go** to a movie tonight.  
 (d) We're **going** to a movie tonight.  
 (e) I'm **going to stay** home this evening.  
 (f) I'm **staying** home this evening.  
 (g) Ann **is going to fly** to Chicago next week.  
 (h) Ann **is flying** to Chicago next week.

The present progressive can be used to express future time. Each pair of example sentences has the same meaning.

The present progressive describes *definite plans for the future*, plans that were made before the moment of speaking.

(i) You're **going to laugh** when you hear this joke.  
 (j) INCORRECT: You're **laughing** when you hear this joke.

A future meaning for the present progressive is indicated either by future time words (e.g., *tomorrow*) or by the situation.\*

The present progressive is NOT used for predictions about the future. In (i): The speaker is predicting a future event. In (j): The present progressive is not possible; laughing is a prediction, not a planned future event.

\*COMPARE: Present situation: *Look! Mary's coming. Do you see her?*  
 Future situation: *Are you planning to come to the party? Mary's coming. So is Alex.*

Directions: Complete the dialogues with any of the following verbs that make sense. Use the present progressive if possible.

<i>cut</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>spend</i>
<i>do</i>	<i>leave</i>	<i>stay</i>
<i>drive</i>	<i>meet</i>	<i>take</i>
<i>fly</i>		

1. A: What **are** you **doing** tomorrow afternoon?

B: I **am** going to the mall.

A: Why?

B: I **am going** shopping for some new clothes. How about you?

What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow afternoon?

A: I \_\_\_\_\_ to a movie with Tom. After the movie, we \_\_\_\_\_ out to dinner. Would you like to meet us for dinner?

B: No, thanks. I can't. I \_\_\_\_\_ Heidi at 6:30 at the new seafood restaurant on Fifth Street.

2. A: What courses \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ this year?

B: I \_\_\_\_\_ English, biology, math and psychology.

A: What courses \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ this year?

B: I \_\_\_\_\_ English literature, chemistry, calculus and history.

A: That should keep you busy!

3. A: I \_\_\_\_\_ on vacation tomorrow.

B: Where \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_?

A: To San Francisco.

B: How are you getting there? Are you \_\_\_\_\_ your car?

A: I \_\_\_\_\_. I have to be at the airport by seven tomorrow morning.

B: Do you need a ride to the airport?

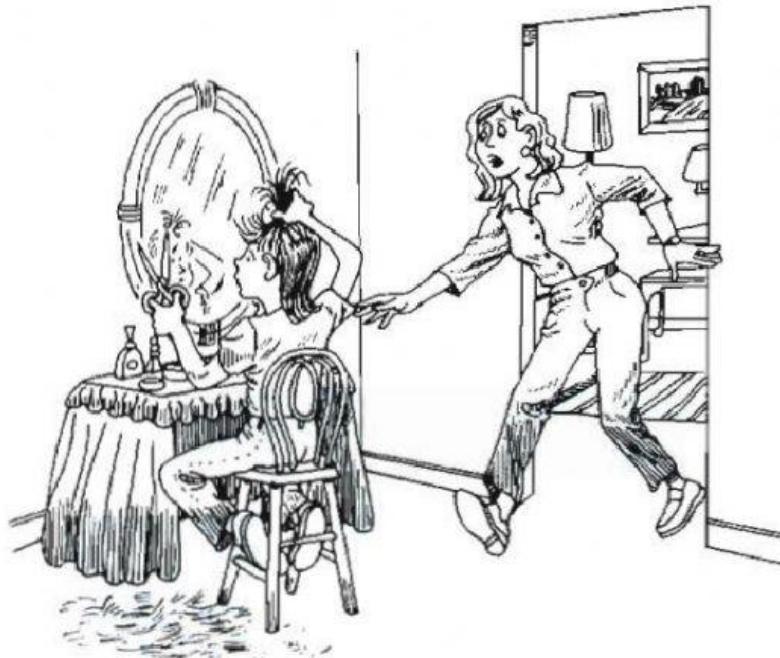
A: No, thanks. I \_\_\_\_\_ a taxi. Are you planning to go somewhere over vacation?

B: No. I \_\_\_\_\_ here.

4. A: Stop! Annie! What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_?

B: I \_\_\_\_\_ my hair, Mom.

A: Oh dear!



5. A: You haven't seen my passport, have you?

B: No. Why?

A: I need it because I \_\_\_\_\_ for Taipei next Monday.

B: Oh? How long will you be there?

A: A week. I \_\_\_\_\_ the first few days with my brother, who \_\_\_\_\_ to school there. After that I \_\_\_\_\_ some old friends I went to school with in Australia several years ago. They've invited me to be their house guest.

B: Sounds like a great trip. Hope you find your passport.