

## Language at work | Present continuous

1 43▷ Listen to three conversations in an office. Why are the people busy at the moment?

2 44▷ Listen to the first conversation again. Complete the conversation using the words in brackets.

A Come on Sandra. It's 12 o'clock. Let's go for lunch.

B Sorry, I <sup>1</sup> 'm not going \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) for lunch today. There's no time.

A Why? What <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do)?

B Anton and I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (interview) someone.

A What? Now?

B It's for the web editor position. She <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) in Reception. Sorry. See you later.

A Bye.

3 The verbs in 2 are in the present continuous tense. What does this tense describe?

- a general fact?
- a repeated action?
- an action or event now or around the moment of speaking?

4 Complete these rules.

1 the present continuous uses AM/IS/ARE + verb + -ing.

2 negative sentences use the negative form of the verb "TO BE": AM NOT/ ISN'T/

3 questions use AM/IS/ARE + subject + verb + -ing.

5 Complete the next two conversations using the present continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

A Where's Chantelle?

B She <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not / work) here today. She's at home.

A Why?

B She <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) her report. Her boss wants it for 7.30 tomorrow morning.

C Where <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (Bill and Sofia / go)?

D They <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (do) the training course for that new finance software all day.

C When are they back?

D At about a quarter to six.

6 45▷ Listen to the two conversations again and check your answers to 5.

7 Match questions 1–5 to answers a–e.

1 What are you doing at the moment? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Are you working on any interesting projects? \_\_\_\_\_

3 How are your English lessons? \_\_\_\_\_

4 Could you give me a hand? \_\_\_\_\_

5 What is the weather like today? \_\_\_\_\_

a It's raining.

b Sorry. I'm trying to finish these plans.

c I'm working with our partners in Italy.

d Yes, we are working on a new hospital in Cairo.

e They're difficult, but I'm making progress.

**EXTRA  
PRACTICE**