

UNIT 1

Present Continuous - Present Simple

Present Continuous



Bob and Claire **aren't working** today. They're on holiday. They're **having** a nice time. What is Bob doing now? He is **taking** a picture of Claire.

We form the present continuous with the auxiliary verb **to be** and the main verb with the **-ing** suffix. The main verb with the **-ing** suffix is the same in all persons.

Affirmative			
	Long form	Short form	
I	am	'm	} reading.
He/She/It	is	's	
You/We/They	are	're	
Interrogative			
Am	I	} reading?	
Is	he/she/it		
Are	you/we/they		
Negative			
	Long form	Short form	
I	am not	'm not	} reading.
He/She/It	is not	isn't	
You/We/They	are not	aren't	

Spelling Rules

- ◆ Verbs ending in **-e**, drop the **-e** and take the **-ing** suffix.
dance - dancing but see - seeing
- ◆ Verbs ending in **one stressed vowel** between **two consonants**, double the last consonant and take the **-ing** suffix.
run - running get - getting
but open - opening
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-l**, double the **-l** and take the **-ing** suffix.
travel - travelling
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-ie**, drop the **-ie** and take **-y + -ing**.
lie - lying die - dying

- 1** Add **-ing** to the verbs and put them in the correct boxes.

talk, dive, swim, shop, lie, study, mend, write, try, take, cook, stop, sleep, die, sit

+ ing	-ie = y + ing
talking	
-e = ing	double consonant + ing

- 2** Fill in the gaps with the **present continuous**.

- 1 We*are/re tidying*..... (tidy) the garden.
- 2 I (not/do) my homework.
- 3 (Dad/paint) the living-room?
- 4 He (run).
- 5 The girls (play) with their dolls.
- 6 John (study) at university.
- 7 Helen and I (make) dinner.
- 8 (you/listen) to the radio?

Use

We use the present continuous:

- ◆ for actions happening now, at the moment of speaking.

He is reading a book right now.



- ◆ for temporary actions happening around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.

She is practising for a concert these days. (She's not practising right now; she's resting.)



- ◆ with 'always' for actions happening too often and about which we wish to express our annoyance or criticism.

'You're always interrupting me!' (annoyance)



- ◆ for fixed arrangements in the near future.

He is flying to Milan in an hour. (It's been arranged.)



Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present continuous include: *now, at the moment, these days, at present, always, tonight, still, etc.*

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Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous.



Four people 1) *...are sitting...* (sit) at a table. They are in a restaurant. They 2) (have) dinner. They 3) (wear) smart clothes. The man 4) (wear) a suit. The parents 5) (smile) at each other and they 6) (talk). The children 7) (listen). The girl 8) (drink) some Coke. The boy 9) (eat) some bread. They 10) (enjoy) their meal.

Short Answers

In short answers we use only Yes or No, the subject pronoun and the auxiliary verb *is/isn't* or *are/aren't*. We do not repeat the whole question.

Are you leaving?	Yes, I am/we are.	No, I'm not/we aren't.
Is he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it is.	No, he/she/it isn't.
Are they ...?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

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Look at the picture in ex. 3 again. In pairs, ask and answer questions, as in the example.

- the parents / wear / sports clothes?
SA: *Are the parents wearing sports clothes?*
SB: *No, they aren't. They're wearing smart clothes.*
- the four people / have / dinner?
- the children / talk?
- the girl / drink / some juice?
- the boy / eat / some ice-cream?