

39 Present continuous (1)



1 Form

We form the present continuous with *am*, *is* or *are* + the *-ing* form of the main verb
e.g. *watching*, *going*, *eating*.

POSITIVE			SHORT FORM
I	am	watching TV.	I'm watching TV.
He/She/It	is	leaving.	He's/She's/It's leaving.
We/You/They	are	practising.	You're/We're/They're practising.

NEGATIVE			SHORT FORM
I	am not	watching TV.	I'm not
He/She/It	is not		He isn't/He's not
We/You/They	are not		She isn't/She's not
			It isn't/It's not
			You aren't/You're not

Sometimes the spelling of the main verb changes, eg:

take → *taking*

lie → *lying*

swim → *swimming*

2 Use

We use the present continuous

- to describe something that is happening while we are speaking:
Hurry up. The taxi's waiting outside right now.
Can you help me? I'm looking for the post office.
James can't come to the door – he's having a bath.
- to talk about something that is happening around now, for a limited period of time:
I'm using my brother's computer today because mine isn't working.
We're on holiday this week. We're staying in a hotel near the beach.

We often use time expressions (e.g. *(right) now*, *at the moment*, *today*, *this week*):

This year we're studying the history of the theatre.

Practice

1 Write the continuous form of these verbs below.

+ -ing	double consonant + -ing	(-e) + -ing
		living

live happen
make run
sit sleep
stop swim
take use
visit wait

2 What are they doing? Complete the sentences about the people in the pictures. Use verbs from Exercise 1.



0 Susy 's running in the park.



1 They in the garden.



2 Jenny a cake.



3 The children on the sofa.



4 Pedro in a river.



5 They for a bus.

3 Complete the sentences. Use forms of the phrases in the box.

play in the garden not have a lunch break eat in a restaurant today wear a pullover have a shower
not go to work today computer not work taxi wait outside not dance at the moment

- 0 Fernando can't come to the phone because he 's having a shower.
- 1 It's cold today so I
- 2 Jane's cooker isn't working so she
- 3 The weather is nice today so the children
- 4 Dave can't send you an email because his
- 5 Carla has hurt her leg so she
- 6 Hurry up! It's time to leave. The
- 7 We have a lot of work in the office today so we
- 8 It's a bank holiday so most people