

Present continuous

Use

We use the present continuous to talk about:

- an action you can see.
In the photo, Rajo Laurel is talking to a group of designers.
- an action happening now.
*A: What are you doing?
B: I'm getting ready for the party.*
- an action happening around the time of speaking.
Sara's looking for a new job.
- a changing situation.
Environmentally friendly clothes are becoming more popular.

Form

We form the present continuous with a form of the auxiliary verb *be* + the *-ing* form of the main verb.

Form

We form the present continuous with a form of the auxiliary verb *be* + the *-ing* form of the main verb.

Remember the spelling rules for *-ing* verbs. See page 164.

	Affirmative	Negative	Questions and short answers
I	<i>I'm working.</i>	<i>I'm not working.</i>	<i>Am I working? Yes, I am. No, I'm not.</i>
you/we/they	<i>We're working.</i>	<i>They aren't working.</i>	<i>Are you working? Yes, you are. No, you aren't.</i>
he/she/it	<i>He's working.</i>	<i>She isn't working.</i>	<i>Is she working? Yes, she is. No, she isn't.</i>

Some verbs describe states (for example, *like, love, hate, know, want*). We don't use these verbs with the present continuous.

*I'm knowing a really nice café near here.
I know a really nice café near here.*

With the present continuous we often use time expressions such as *this week/month/year, today, at the moment, or this morning*.

I'm wearing my new dress today.

Simple present and present continuous

We use both the simple present and the present continuous to talk about actions and situations in the present.

- We use the simple present to talk about facts and routines.

*The company gives workers a good salary. (fact)
Luca always wears a suit to work. (routine)*



Luca always wears a suit to work.

- We use the present continuous to describe an action now or around the time of speaking.

Luca is wearing a blue suit today.



Luca is wearing a blue suit today.

8 Complete these sentences with the present continuous form of the verb.

- 1 I _____ (shop) at the moment.
- 2 We _____ (not work) in the office today.
- 3 He _____ (hold) a brown backpack.
- 4 The company _____ (not make) any money at the moment.
- 5 _____ you _____ (wear) a suit?

Grammar simple present and present continuous

► SIMPLE PRESENT and PRESENT CONTINUOUS

The two women in the photo are making bags.
They work for the company Rags2Riches in the Philippines.

For more information and practice, see page 172.

12 Circle the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 At the moment, *I travel* / *I'm traveling* in Asia.
- 2 Usually, he *doesn't go* / *isn't going* to the gym during the week.
- 3 Today *she visits* / *she's visiting* an important customer.
- 4 My sister *likes* / *is liking* clothes and fashion.
- 5 These days, the cost of clothes *goes* / *is going* up.
- 6 She *doesn't go* / *isn't going* on vacation very often.

13 Match the questions (1–5) with the answers (a–e).

- 1 Do you normally wear a uniform? _____
- 2 I'm doing my homework. Can you help me? _____
- 3 Is it raining in your town today? _____
- 4 Who are you working with this week? _____
- 5 Where do you come from? _____

- a Sorry, not now. I'm making dinner. Maybe later.
- b Two people from Japan. They're helping us with a new project.
- c Spain, but I'm studying in Lima for a year.
- d Yes, I do, but today I'm not working, so I can wear a T-shirt and jeans.
- e No, it isn't. It's nice and sunny.