

5 Present Continuous (1)

1 We form the Present Continuous like this:

be + -ing form
I am eating.

Here are the forms of the Present Continuous:

POSITIVE

FULL FORM
I am eating.
You are eating.
He/She/It is eating.
We are eating.
You are eating.
They are eating.

NEGATIVE

FULL FORM
I am not eating.
You are not eating.
He/She/It is not eating.
We are not eating.
You are not eating.
They are not eating.

SHORT FORM

I'm eating.
You're eating.
He's eating.
We're eating.
You're eating.
They're eating.

SHORT FORM

I'm not eating.
You aren't eating.
He isn't eating.
We aren't eating.
You aren't eating.
They aren't eating.

3 But notice these irregular spellings:

win → winning	get → getting
shop → shopping	sit → sitting
swim → swimming	travel → travelling
dance → dancing	write → writing
shine → shining	

(For more details on the spelling of the -ing form, see Appendix 2, page 243.)

4 We use the Present Continuous:

► to talk about actions and situations in progress now:



► to talk about actions and situations in progress around now, but not exactly at the moment we speak:



2 To make the -ing form, we add -ing to the verb:

listen → listening play → playing
work → working read → reading

Practice

A Look at these pictures.



Decide what is happening (✓) and what isn't happening (✗) in each picture, and then write positive or negative sentences.

► (George/eat/breakfast)
(George/sleep)

1 (They/work)
(They/sit/in the garden)

2 (I/study/music)
(I/learn/Japanese)

✗

✓

George isn't eating breakfast.....

George is sleeping.....

.....

.....

.....

3 (He/play/tennis)
(She/win)
4 (We/spend/a day at the seaside)
(The sun/shine)

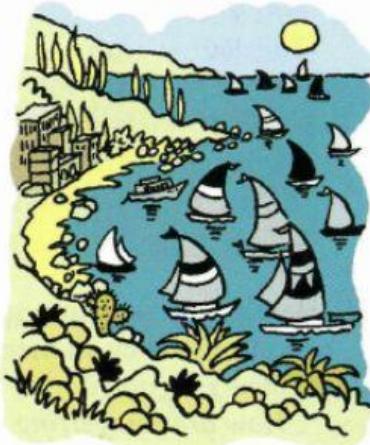
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B Finish the postcard using the words in brackets () in the Present Continuous. Use full forms (e.g. *is sitting*).

Dear Peter,

Jenny and I (►) are staying (stay) here for a week.
The sun (1) (shine) and it's very hot.
We (2) (sit) on the beach and I
(3) (drink) an orange juice.
We (4) (not/swim) because we're
both tired. We (5) (watch) the boats on
the sea at the moment. They (6) (travel) fast,
but I can see fifteen or sixteen. Jenny (7) (read)
her book, and I (8) (write) all the postcards!

Jim and Jenny



C Match the two halves of the sentences. Then put in the correct form of the verb in brackets ().

► My aunt is staying (stay)
with us this week

1 I (go) to work by
bike this week

2 My father (take)
some medicine

3 Anna is not in the office this week

4 Pauline needs some exercise

5 We (eat) in a
restaurant this week

6 Jill doesn't feel well

7 Tom (study)
more now

a so he can't drink beer at the moment.

b because she (work)
at home.

c so she (stay) at
home today.

d so I am sleeping (sleep) in the
living room.

e because our oven is broken.

f because he wants to get a good mark.

g because I haven't got money for petrol.

h so she (walk) to
school this week.

► d 1 2 3 4 5 6 7