

# 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.

### SHORT FORM

I'm eating.  
You're eating.  
He's eating.  
We're eating.  
You're eating.  
They're 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 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 (X) 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)

X

George isn't eating breakfast.....

✓

George is sleeping.....

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

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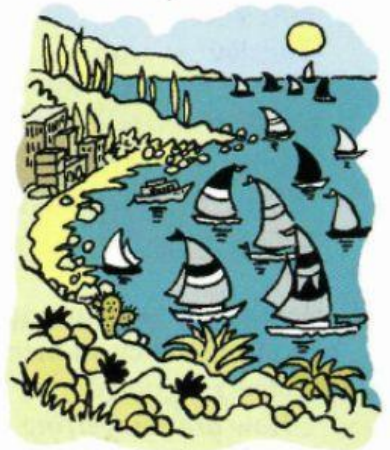
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**B** Finish the postcard using the words in brackets ( ) in the Present Continuous. Use full forms (e.g. *is sitting*).

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 .....