

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**.

- Weare/re tidying..... (tidy) the garden.
- I (not/do) my homework.
- (Dad/paint) the living-room?
- He (run).
- The girls (play) with their dolls.
- John (study) at university.
- Helen and I (make) dinner.
- (you/listen) to the radio?

Present Continuous - Present Simple

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.*

3

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.

4

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?