

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>I</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>watching TV.</i>	<i>I'm watching TV.</i>
<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>leaving.</i>	<i>He's/She's/It's leaving.</i>
<i>We/You/They</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>practising.</i>	<i>You're/We're/They're practising.</i>

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

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