

3B present continuous (future arrangements)

- I'm **seeing** an old friend tonight.
She's **arriving** at lunchtime.
- She **isn't leaving** until Friday.
They **aren't coming** to the party tomorrow.
- What **are you doing** this evening?
Is he **meeting** us at the restaurant?

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be going to or present continuous?

We can often use either with no difference in meaning, e.g. *I'm going to see* Anna on Tuesday. OR *I'm seeing* Anna on Tuesday.

It's very common to use the present continuous with the expressions tonight, tomorrow, this weekend, etc. and with verbs describing travel arrangements, e.g. go, come, leave, arrive.

I'm leaving on Monday is more common than *I'm going to leave* on Monday.

- We often use the present continuous with a future meaning, especially for future arrangements, i.e. for plans we have made at a fixed time or place in the future. Don't use the present simple for this.
NOT *I see an old friend tonight.*

3B

a Read the sentences. Write **N** for now, **F** for future.

- I'm meeting Joe at two o'clock.
- 1 I'm living in a flat with two Swedish boys.
- 2 We're coming back on Monday.
- 3 She's moving to Canada next month.
- 4 I'm waiting for the postman.
- 5 I'm reading a really good book about science.
- 6 We're meeting Sally and James for lunch on Sunday.
- 7 Karl is arriving at six o'clock.
- 8 I'm studying for my maths exam.
- 9 You aren't listening to what I'm saying.
- 10 Are they leaving in the morning?

b Complete the conversation between two flatmates with verbs in the present continuous.

- A What are you doing? (do)
- B I ¹ _____ my suitcase. (pack)
- A Why?
- B Because I ² _____ to Vienna at eight o'clock tonight. (fly)
- A Oh, I didn't know. Why ³ _____ to Vienna? (go)
- B I ⁴ _____ the boss of VTech Solutions tomorrow. (meet)
- A Why ⁵ _____ him? (see)
- B He ⁶ _____ on a project with me at the moment and we need to discuss it. (work)
- A Oh, well have a good trip!