Unit 1

Present continuous (**I am doing**)

A

Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She**'s driving** to work. (= She **is driving** …)

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
The action is not finished.

am/is/are + -ing is the *present continuous*:

I	**am**	(= I**'m**)	**driving**
he/she/it	**is**	(= he**'s** etc.)	**working**
we/you/they	**are**	(= we**'re** etc.)	**doing** etc.



B

I am doing something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. I**'m trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He**'s having** a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? **Are** you **enjoying** it?
- What's all that noise? What**'s going** on? *or* What**'s happening**?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



Steve says '**I'm reading** …' but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking.
He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she**'s learning** Italian.
  (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C

You can use the present continuous with **today** / **this week** / **this year** etc. (periods around now):

- A: You**'re working** hard **today**. (*not* You work hard today)
  B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

D

We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

getting, becoming
starting, beginning
changing, improving
increasing, rising, falling, growing

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I**'m starting** to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

1.1 **What's happening in the pictures? Choose from these verbs:**

cross hide scratch take tie wave



1 She's taking a picture.
2 He ..... a shoelace.
3 ..... the road.
4 ..... his head.
5 ..... behind a tree.
6 ..... to somebody.

1.2 **The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?**

1 Please don't make so much noise.	a I'm getting hungry.	1 f
2 We need to leave soon.	b They're lying.	2 .....
3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.	c It's starting to rain.	3 .....
4 I need to eat something soon.	d They're trying to sell it.	4 .....
5 They don't need their car any more.	e It's getting late.	5 .....
6 Things are not so good at work.	f I'm trying to work.	6 .....
7 It isn't true what they say.	g I'm staying with friends.	7 .....
8 We're going to get wet.	h The company is losing money.	8 .....

1.3 **Write questions. Use the present continuous.**

1 What's all that noise? What's happening? (what / happen?)
2 What's the matter? ..... (why / you / cry?)
3 Where's your mother? ..... (she / work / today?)
4 I haven't seen you for ages. ..... (what / you / do / these days?)
5 Amy is a student. ..... (what / she / study?)
6 Who are those people? ..... (what / they / do?)
7 I heard you started a new job. ..... (you / enjoy / it?)
8 We're not in a hurry. ..... (why / you / walk / so fast?)

1.4 **Put the verb into the correct form, positive (I'm doing etc.) or negative (I'm not doing etc.).**

1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) any more.
3 You can turn off the radio. ..... (I / listen) to it.
4 Kate phoned last night. She's on holiday with friends. ..... (She / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
5 Andrew started evening classes recently. ..... (He / learn) Japanese.
6 Paul and Sarah have had an argument and now ..... (they / speak) to one another.
7 The situation is already very bad and now ..... (it / get) worse.
8 Tim ..... (work) today. He's taken the day off.
9 ..... (I / look) for Sophie. Do you know where she is?
10 The washing machine has been repaired. ..... (It / work) now.
11 ..... (They / build) a new hospital. It will be finished next year.
12 Ben is a student, but he's not very happy. ..... (He / enjoy) his course.
13 ..... (The weather / change). Look at those clouds. I think it's going to rain.
14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. ..... (He / start) to get bored with it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS