PRESENT CONTINUOUS BEYOND "NOW"

A. QUICK GRAMMAR REMINDER

Ở Bài trước, chúng ta đã học Present Continuous dùng cho tình huống tạm thời quanh hiện tại.

Trong Bài này, chúng ta học thêm 2 cách dùng nâng cao hơn của Present Continuous:

1. Present Continuous for current changes and developing situations

Ta dùng Present Continuous khi muốn nói rằng một tình huống đang thay đổi, phát triển, tăng lên, giảm xuống, hoặc chuyển biến trong giai đoạn hiện tại.

Cách dùng này rất hữu ích trong IELTS Writing Task 1 và Task 2.

Examples:

- The cost of living is rising. → Chi phí sinh hoạt đang tăng lên.
- More and more students are taking international English exams. → Ngày càng nhiều học sinh đang thi các chứng chỉ tiếng Anh quốc tế.
- His writing is improving because he practises every day. → Kỹ năng viết của cậu ấy đang cải thiện vì cậu ấy luyện tập mỗi ngày.
- Technology is changing the way students learn. → Công nghệ đang thay đổi cách học sinh học tập.

2. Present Continuous with always / constantly / continually / forever

Ta có thể dùng Present Continuous với always, constantly, continually, forever để nói về một hành động lặp đi lặp lại khiến người nói có cảm xúc mạnh.

Cảm xúc này thường là:

khó chịu/ phàn nàn/ bực mình/ chỉ trích nhẹ/ ngạc nhiên

hoặc đôi khi là khen ngợi / cảm phục

Examples:

- You are always interrupting me. → Bạn cứ ngắt lời tôi suốt. (Người nói đang phàn nàn.)
- He is constantly checking his phone during class. → Cậu ấy cứ liên tục kiểm tra điện thoại trong giờ học. (Người nói thấy khó chịu.)
- She is always helping other students. → Cô ấy lúc nào cũng giúp các bạn khác.(Người nói đang khen hoặc thể hiện sự cảm phục.)

3. Compare: Present Simple vs Present Continuous with always

- Present Simple with always thường nói về thói quen trung lập.

Example:

He always leaves his desk untidy. → Cậu ấy luôn để bàn bừa bộn. (Đây là một nhận xét chung.)

- Present Continuous with always thường thể hiện thái độ của người nói.

Example:

He is always leaving his desk untidy. → Cậu ấy cứ để bàn bừa bộn suốt. (Người nói đang phàn nàn rõ hơn.)

B. NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE

Pair 1

Students use AI tools for homework. → Đây là một nhận xét chung hoặc một thói quen.

More and more students are using AI tools for homework. → Đây là một xu hướng đang tăng lên hiện nay.

Pair 2

The price of private education rises every year. → Đây là một nhận xét chung về xu hướng thường xuyên.

The price of private education is rising. → Giá đang tăng trong giai đoạn hiện tại.

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Pair 3

He always checks his phone after class. → Đây là một thói quen bình thường.

He is constantly checking his phone during class. → Đây là hành động lặp lại gây khó chịu.

Pair 4

My sister always borrows my clothes. → Đây là một thói quen.

My sister is always borrowing my clothes without asking. → Người nói đang phàn nàn.

Pair 5

Our teacher always gives us useful feedback. → Đây là một thói quen tốt.

Our teacher is always giving us useful feedback. → Người nói nhấn mạnh sự biết ơn hoặc đánh giá tích cực.

EXERCISE 1. IDENTIFY THE MEANING

Write:

C = current change or developing situation

A = repeated action with attitude

N = neutral habit / general situation

1. More and more teenagers are spending time on short videos.
2. My brother always checks his messages after school.
3. My brother is constantly checking his messages during dinner.
4. The number of students taking IELTS is increasing.
5. Our teacher always explains difficult grammar clearly.
6. Our teacher is always encouraging us to give more detailed answers.
7. The cost of living is rising in many big cities.
8. She always takes careful notes in class.
9. She is always sharing her notes with absent classmates.
10. Many schools are introducing more technology into their lessons.
11. My classmates are continually talking while I'm trying to concentrate.
12. This centre prepares students for entrance exams.
13. The demand for bilingual education is growing.
14. You are forever complaining about homework.
15. My father usually reads the news before breakfast.

EXERCISE 2. CHOOSE THE CORRECT FORM

1. More and more parents **send / are sending** their children to extra English classes.
2. The number of students taking international exams **increases / is increasing**.
3. My brother always **checks / is always** checking his phone after dinner.
4. My brother constantly **checks / is constantly checking** his phone while we are having dinner. It's really annoying.
5. The cost of private education **rises / is rising** in many large cities.

6. Our teacher always **gives / is always giving** us helpful feedback on our essays.

7. Our teacher **gives / is giving** us more feedback this term because the writing test is getting closer.

8. Students **depend / are depending** more on technology for homework these days.

9. You always **interrupt / are always interrupting** me when I'm trying to explain my idea.

10. The gap between strong and weak students **becomes / is becoming** more obvious as the exam approaches.

11. She always **helps / is always helping** weaker students after class. It's very kind of her.

12. They forever **complain / are forever complaining** about the amount of homework.

13. Education **changes / is changing** quickly because of digital technology.

14. He always **makes / is always making** excuses when he forgets his homework.

15. Parents **pay / are paying** more attention to their children's mental health nowadays.

EXERCISE 3. IELTS-STYLE SENTENCE BUILDING

1. The number of students attending online classes _____ steadily. (increase)

2. The percentage of teenagers who read printed newspapers _____. (fall)

3. More and more schools _____ digital tools into their lessons. (introduce)

4. The demand for bilingual education _____ in major cities. (grow)

5. The cost of private tutoring _____, especially in urban areas. (rise)

6. Students' learning habits _____as technology becomes more common. (change)

7. English _____ more important for students who want to study abroad. (become)

8. The quality of his writing _____ because he practises every week. (improve)

EXERCISE 4. Rewrite the sentences so that they describe a current trend or development.

1. More students choose online courses nowadays.

→ More and more students _____.

2. The cost of living rises in big cities.

→ The cost of living _____.

3. Teenagers spend more time on short videos than before.

→ Teenagers _____.

4. Schools use more digital tools in the classroom.

→ Schools _____.

5. The number of students taking IELTS grows every year.

→ The number of students taking IELTS _____.

6. Education becomes more technology-based.

→ Education _____.

7. Parents pay more attention to children's emotional health.

→ Parents _____.

8. The exam becomes more competitive.

→ The exam _____.

EXERCISE 5. Read the sentences. Decide whether each sentence sounds mainly neutral, negative, or positive.

Write:

N = neutral habit

NEG = negative attitude / complaint

POS = positive attitude / admiration

1. My sister always helps me with difficult homework.
2. My sister is always helping me when I get stuck.
3. He always leaves his books on my desk.
4. He's always leaving his books on my desk.
5. Our teacher always encourages us to explain our answers clearly.
6. Our teacher is always encouraging us to think more deeply.
7. You're constantly interrupting me when I'm trying to speak.
8. They always have lunch at the same café.
9. They're forever complaining about the school rules.
10. My brother is always borrowing my charger without asking.
11. She always takes careful notes during lessons.
12. She's always taking careful notes and sharing them with absent classmates.
13. The students are continually talking while the teacher is explaining the task.
14. He always checks his email before starting work.

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15. She's constantly losing her homework and asking for another copy.

EXERCISE 6. Rewrite each neutral sentence using the Present Continuous with always, constantly, continually, or forever to show the attitude in brackets.

1. My brother borrows my laptop. (complaint)

→ My brother _____.

2. She helps weaker students after class. (admiration)

→ She _____.

3. They arrive late for meetings. (complaint)

→ They _____.

4. He makes useful suggestions during group work. (admiration)

→ He _____.

5. You interrupt me when I'm speaking. (complaint)

→ You _____.

6. My sister leaves her clothes on my bed. (complaint)

→ My sister _____.

7. Our teacher reminds us to check our grammar. (mild annoyance)

→ Our teacher _____.

8. He encourages his teammates before competitions. (admiration)

→ He _____.

9. They complain about the school timetable. (annoyance)

→ They _____.

10. My friend sends me voice messages during lessons. (complaint)

→ My friend _____.

EXERCISE 7. COMPLETE THE MINI-DIALOGUES

Dialogue 1

A: You look annoyed. What's wrong?

B: My brother _____ my laptop without asking. (always / use)

A: Has he done it again?

B: Yes. And he _____ the battery flat. (continually / leave)

Dialogue 2

A: I really like our new English teacher.

B: Me too. She _____ us to explain our ideas clearly. (always / encourage)

A: And she _____ helpful comments on our writing. (always / give)

Dialogue 3

A: Why don't you want to work with Tom?

B: Because he _____ late for every group meeting. (always / arrive)

A: That's true. He also _____ excuses instead of apologising. (forever / make)

Dialogue 4

A: Have you noticed that more students _____ English speaking clubs these days? (join)

B: Yes, I think speaking skills _____ more important because many exams now include interviews. (become)

A: Exactly. Even shy students _____ to practise more. (try)

Dialogue 5

A: Why _____ the school _____ more online materials this term? (provide)

B: Because students _____ more flexible ways to revise at home. (need)

A: That makes sense. The way students learn _____ very quickly. (change)

EXERCISE 8. Correct the mistakes. Write C if the sentence is already correct.

1. More and more students choose online learning platforms these days.
2. The cost of living rises at the moment.
3. His English is improving quickly because he practises every day.
4. My sister is always helps me with my homework.

5. They are forever complain about the amount of homework.

6. This school offers extra classes for students preparing for entrance exams.

7. Education becomes more technology-based.

8. You are always interrupting me when I'm trying to answer the question.

9. Our teacher always is reminding us to use evidence in our essays.

10. Fewer people are reading printed newspapers nowadays.

11. My brother is always borrow my clothes without asking.

12. The demand for English teachers is growing in many areas.

13. My classmates are continually talking while I try to concentrate.

14. The school is providing online materials for all students every year.

15. The exam is becoming more difficult, so students need more serious preparation.

EXERCISE 9. TEXT GAP-FILL

Student life _____ (change) quickly. In the past, many students mainly _____ (depend) on textbooks and classroom lessons. Today, however, more and more students _____ (use) online platforms, video lessons and AI tools to support their learning.

This change _____ (create) both opportunities and problems. On the one hand, students _____ (have) access to more information than ever before. On the other hand, many teachers _____ (worry) that students _____ (become) too dependent on technology.

In my class, there is another problem. Some students _____ (constantly / check) their phones during lessons. Others _____ (forever / complain) when teachers ask them to write longer answers. Our English teacher usually _____ (stay) calm, but recently she _____ (get) frustrated because the same students _____ (continually / interrupt) the lesson.

Personally, I think technology can be useful, but students still _____ (need) discipline. My own English _____ (improve) because I _____ (listen) to English podcasts every day. However, I also know that no app can replace serious practice.

EXERCISE 10. The paragraph below contains 10 mistakes with the Present Simple and Present Continuous. Find and correct them.

The way students learn English changes very quickly these days. More and more students use online tools, and the number of learners who take international exams increases. At my school, teachers usually are giving grammar exercises, but this term they give us more speaking tasks because communication skills become more important. Some students are constantly check their phones during lessons, and others are forever complain about homework. Our teacher always is trying to stay patient, but I can see that she gets annoyed. My English improves this month because I practise every day and watch English videos after school.

EXERCISE 11. GUIDED WRITING

Write a paragraph of 100-120 words about changes in student life and repeated habits that affect learning.

You must include:

1. One sentence with More and more...
2. One sentence with The number of...
3. One sentence with is becoming / are becoming...
4. At least two Present Continuous forms showing current change or development.
5. At least two Present Continuous forms with always / constantly / continually / forever.
6. At least two Present Simple forms for general facts or neutral habits.

Suggested opening:

Student life is changing quickly, especially because technology is becoming more important in education.

EXERCISE 12. SPEAKING PRACTICE

Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.

1. Are students in your school using technology more than before?
2. Is English becoming more important for students in Vietnam?
3. Are exams becoming more competitive?
4. Are your classmates constantly doing anything that makes it hard to study?
5. Do you know anyone who is always helping other people?
6. What are teachers always reminding students to do?
7. What are students forever complaining about?
8. Do you have any habits that other people complain about?

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