

Present continuous

Use

We use the present continuous to talk about:

- an action you can see.
In the photo, Rado Laurel is talking to a group of designers.
- an action happening now.
A: What are you doing?
B: I'm getting ready for the party.
- an action happening around the time of speaking.
Sara's looking for a new job.
- a changing situation.
Environmentally friendly clothes are becoming more popular.

Form

We form the present continuous with a form of the auxiliary verb *be* + the *-ing* form of the main verb.

Form

We form the present continuous with a form of the auxiliary verb *be* + the *-ing* form of the main verb.

Remember the spelling rules for *-ing* verbs. See page 164.

	Affirmative	Negative	Questions and short answers
I	<i>I'm working.</i>	<i>I'm not working.</i>	<i>Am I working?</i> <i>Yes, I am.</i> <i>No, I'm not.</i>
you/we/they	<i>We're working.</i>	<i>They aren't working.</i>	<i>Are you working?</i> <i>Yes, you are.</i> <i>No, you aren't.</i>
he/she/it	<i>He's working.</i>	<i>She isn't working.</i>	<i>Is she working?</i> <i>Yes, she is.</i> <i>No, she isn't.</i>

Some verbs describe states (for example, *like, love, hate, know, want*). We don't use these verbs with the present continuous.

I'm knowing a really nice café near here.
I know a really nice café near here.

With the present continuous we often use time expressions such as *this week/month/year, today, at the moment, or this morning*.

I'm wearing my new dress today.

Simple present and present continuous

We use both the simple present and the present continuous to talk about actions and situations in the present.

- We use the simple present to talk about facts and routines.
The company gives workers a good salary. (fact)
Luca always wears a suit to work. (routine)



- We use the present continuous to describe an action now or around the time of speaking.
Luca is wearing a blue suit today.



8 Complete these sentences with the present continuous form of the verb.

- 1 I _____ (shop) at the moment.
- 2 We _____ (not work) in the office today.
- 3 He _____ (hold) a brown backpack.
- 4 The company _____ (not make) any money at the moment.
- 5 _____ you _____ (wear) a suit?

Grammar simple present and present continuous

► SIMPLE PRESENT and PRESENT CONTINUOUS

The two women in the photo **are making** bags.

They **work** for the company Rags2Riches in the Philippines.

For more information and practice, see page 172.

12 Circle the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 At the moment, *I travel* / *I'm traveling* in Asia.
- 2 Usually, he *doesn't go* / *isn't going* to the gym during the week.
- 3 Today *she visits* / *she's visiting* an important customer.
- 4 My sister *likes* / *is liking* clothes and fashion.
- 5 These days, the cost of clothes *goes* / *is going* up.
- 6 She *doesn't go* / *isn't going* on vacation very often.

13 Match the questions (1–5) with the answers (a–e).

- 1 Do you normally wear a uniform? ____
 - 2 I'm doing my homework. Can you help me? ____
 - 3 Is it raining in your town today? ____
 - 4 Who are you working with this week? ____
 - 5 Where do you come from? ____
- a Sorry, not now. I'm making dinner. Maybe later.
 - b Two people from Japan. They're helping us with a new project.
 - c Spain, but I'm studying in Lima for a year.
 - d Yes, I do, but today I'm not working, so I can wear a T-shirt and jeans.
 - e No, it isn't. It's nice and sunny.