

6 Present Continuous (2)

1 Look at these questions:

Are you enjoying that drink, Ann?
Is he watching TV at the moment?
Are they working hard?

2 We form Present Continuous questions like this:

QUESTIONS

Singular	Am I	} winning?
	Are you	
	Is she/he/it	
Plural	Are we	} winning?
	Are you	
	Are they	

3 Here are three common Present Continuous questions. They all mean 'How are you?':

How's it going?
How are you getting on?
How are you doing?



4 We do not usually use the Present Continuous to talk about opinions or thoughts:

I like tennis. I know your sister. (NOT ~~I'm~~ *liking tennis. I'm knowing your sister.*)

We do not usually use these verbs in the Present Continuous:

like	know	hate
love	understand	believe
mean	remember	want

5 think and have:

- ▶ we cannot use **think** in the Present Continuous to express opinions:
I think he's nice. (NOT ~~I'm~~ *thinking he's nice.*)
- ▶ we can use **think** in the Present Continuous to talk about an action:
She's thinking about the film.
- ▶ we cannot use **have** in the Present Continuous to talk about possessions:
I have a ticket. (NOT ~~I am~~ *having a ticket.*)
- ▶ we can use it to talk about actions:
I'm having breakfast. He's having fun.

Practice

A Make questions by putting the words in brackets () in the right order.

- ▶ (enjoying – your work – you – are – ?) *Are you enjoying your work?*
- 1 (she – having lunch – is – ?)
- 2 (playing football – are – they – ?)
- 3 (the cat – sleeping – is – ?)
- 4 (the sun – is – shining – ?)
- 5 (you – are – coming – to the cinema – ?)
- 6 (listening – are – they – ?)
- 7 (eating – at the moment – she – is – ?)
- 8 (it – raining hard – is – ?)
- 9 (I – getting better – at tennis – am – ?)
- 10 (are – winning the match – we – ?)

B Make questions and answers. Use the Present Continuous.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
▶ (she/work/in Peru this year?) <i>Is she working in Peru this year?</i>	~ (No, she/study/in Mexico) ~ <i>No, she's studying in Mexico.</i>
1 (you/study/English at the moment?)	~ (Yes, I/work/hard) ~
2 (they/listen/to the radio?)	~ (No, they/play/CDs) ~
3 (Peter/wash/now?)	~ (Yes, he/have/a bath) ~
4 (they/live/in Madrid at the moment?)	~ (Yes, they/learn/Spanish) ~
5 (David/sing/in a group this year?)	~ (No, he/work/in a restaurant) ~

C Put a tick (✓) next to a correct sentence, and a cross (X) next to a wrong sentence.

- ▶ She's liking pop music. X
- ▶ He's learning French. ✓
- 1 They're enjoying the film.
- 2 We're loving ice-cream.
- 3 She's believing he's right.
- 4 John's thinking about my idea.
- 5 He's having lunch at the moment.
- 6 She's eating a banana.
- 7 He thinks it's a good idea.
- 8 'Huge' is meaning 'very big'.
- 9 Mick is knowing Jane.
- 10 She's hating classical music.

D Complete this conversation. Use the verbs in brackets () in the Present Continuous.

Paul: Hi Steve! What are you doing?
 Steve: (▶) *I'm going*..... (I/go) to the bank. What are you doing?
 Paul: (1)..... (I/shop). (2)..... (I/look) for a new tennis racquet. (3)..... (I/play) a lot of tennis at the moment, and I need a new racquet.
 Steve: Where is Jackie? Do you know?
 Paul: Yes. She isn't in England at the moment. (4)..... (She/work) in France for a month.
 Steve: What (5)..... (she/do) in France?
 Paul: (6)..... (She/sing) in a night-club.
 Steve: Really? What about Fred and Sue? What (7)..... (they/do)?
 Paul: (8)..... (They/study) for an exam. They're always in the library at the moment.
 Steve: How is your sister? Is she all right?
 Paul: Yes, she's fine, but she's tired. (9)..... (We/paint) the living-room. It's hard work.
 Steve: Can I help you?
 Paul: No, it's OK. My father (10)..... (help).
 Steve: Well, I hope you find a good racquet.