Present Continuous

1 Introduction

The Present Continuous means that we are in the middle of an action.

SARAH'S TRAIN IS LATE, SO SHE IS PHONING MARK.

2 Form

The Present Continuous is the present tense of **be** + an -ing form.

POSITIVE

*I **am looking*** OR *I'**m looking***
*You/we/they **are looking*** OR *You/we/they'**re looking***
*He/she/it **is looking*** OR *He/she/it'**s looking***

NEGATIVE	QUESTION
*I'**m not looking***	*am I looking?*
*you/we/they **aren't looking*** OR *you're/we're/they're **not looking***	*are you/we/they looking?*
*he/she/it **isn't looking*** OR *he's/she's/it's **not looking***	*is he/she/it looking?*

*I'**m getting** the lunch ready.*
*We're **looking** for a post office.*
*What **are** you **doing**?*

*The train **is coming**, look.*
*Rachel **isn't wearing** her new dress.*
*Who **is** Vicky **dancing** with?*

3 Use

We use the Present Continuous to say that we are in the middle of an action.

*I'**m waiting** for the train.* (I'm at the station now.)
*I'**m getting** the lunch ready.* (I'm in the kitchen now.)

I'm waiting means that I am in the middle of a period of waiting. The wait is not yet over.

We can also use the Present Continuous when we are in the middle of something but not actually doing it at the moment of speaking.

*I must get back to the office. We're **working** on a new project.*
*I'm quite busy these days. I'**m doing** a course at college.*

We can use the Present Continuous when things are changing over a long period.

*The number of cars on the road **is increasing**.* *The earth **is** slowly **getting** warmer.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice

A Form (2)

Look at the pictures and say what people are doing.
Use these verbs: *carry, paint, play, ride, take*
Use these objects: *a bicycle, a parcel, a photo, a picture, basketball*

▶ He's riding a bicycle.

1 ..... 3 .....
2 ..... 4 .....

B Form (2)

Rachel is in the computer room at college. Complete her conversation with Andrew.
Put in a Present Continuous form of the verb.

Andrew: What (▶) are you doing? (you / do)
Rachel: (▶) I'm writing (I / write) a letter to a friend. He's a disc jockey. Vicky and I (1) ..... (try) to organize a disco.
Andrew: That sounds a lot of work. How (2) ..... (you / find) time for your studies?
Rachel: Well, as I said, Vicky (3) ..... (help) me. (4) ..... (we / get) on all right. (5) ..... (we / not / spend) too much time on it. (6) ..... (it / not / take) me away from my studies, don't worry about that. Oh, sorry, (7) ..... (you / wait) for this computer?
Andrew: Yes, but there's no hurry.
Rachel: (8) ..... (I / correct) the last bit of the letter. I've nearly finished.

C Use (3)

What can you say in these situations? Add a sentence with the Present Continuous.

▶ A friend rings you up in the middle of *Neighbours*, your favourite soap opera.
Is it important? I'm watching 'Neighbours'.

1 A friend is at your flat and suggests going out, but you can see rain outside.
I don't want to go out now. Look, ...

2 A friend rings you up at work.
Sorry, I can't talk now. .....

3 You want to get off the bus, but the man next to you is sitting on your coat.
Excuse me, ...

4 A friend wants to talk to you, but you have just started to write an important letter.
Can I talk to you later? .....

5 You have been ill, but you're better now than you were.
I'm OK now. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS