



Presentation

Use the present continuous:

- to talk about temporary events and actions in progress at the time of speaking:
The bus is coming!
- To talk about things that are in progress around the time of speaking, but not necessarily at that exact moment:
The buses aren't stopping at the station this week.
- to talk about a changing situation:
Public transport is getting really expensive!
- with *always* to emphasize a repeated action (which is sometimes annoying):
They're always digging up these roads.

Time expressions

We often use the present continuous tense with time expressions such as: *now, at the moment, currently, today, this week, nowadays, etc.*

Present simple or present continuous?

Present simple	Present continuous
Facts/things that are generally true: <i>The bus stops at the train station.</i>	Happening now: <i>The bus is coming!</i>
Routines: <i>The bus comes every day.</i>	Events in progress around the time of speaking: <i>The buses aren't stopping at the station this week.</i>
Regular change: <i>Public transport gets more expensive every year.</i>	Changing situation: <i>Public transport is getting more expensive.</i>
With <i>always</i> to talk about habits and routines: <i>They always dig up the road in the summer.</i>	With <i>always</i> for repeated (and often annoying) actions: <i>They're always digging up the road in the summer.</i>

Exercises

- 1 Look at the pictures. Complete the descriptions of the people using the present continuous. Use the negative form where necessary.



- 1 Lots of people are looking for (look for) work these days.



- 2 He (study) for his English exam.



- 3 This shop (always/sell) clothes at half price!



- 4 They (work) late every day this week.

2 Choose the correct options.

A: What ¹do you watch / are you watching?

B: The news. The price of petrol ²goes / is going up again.

A: It ³gets / is getting more expensive every year.

B: I know! The price ⁴never goes / is never going down!

A: Anyway, can I change the channel?

B: Why? What's on?

A: Football. Manchester United ⁵play / are playing Barcelona.

B: No, you can't. You ⁶always watch / 're always watching the football. It's so boring! I ⁷never watch / 'm never watching anything I like.

A: But you ⁸enjoy / 're enjoying football.

B: That's not true. When you aren't here, ⁹I don't watch / I'm not watching it.

3 Make sentences with the words. Use the present simple or the present continuous.

1 They / currently / develop
They are currently developing a new type of medicine for the flu.

2 The postman / deliver / our letters
..... once a day.

3 You / always / talk
..... during the movie. It's so annoying!

4 This room / be / always / cold
.....

5 Why / my course fees / go up
..... again this term?

6 It's night time and the wind / blow
..... when there's a loud scream in the air ...