UNIT 1
Present Continuous - Present Simple

Present Continuous



*Bob and Claire **aren't working** today. They're on holiday.*
*They're **having** a nice time.*
*What **is Bob doing** now?*
*He **is taking** a picture of Claire.*

We form the present continuous with the auxiliary verb to be and the main verb with the -ing suffix. The main verb with the -ing suffix is the same in all persons.

Affirmative

	Long form	Short form	
I	am	'm	reading.
He/She/It	is	's	
You/We/They	are	're	

Interrogative

Am	I	reading?
Is	he/she/it	
Are	you/we/they	

Negative

	Long form	Short form	
I	am not	'm not	reading.
He/She/It	is not	isn't	
You/We/They	are not	aren't	

Spelling Rules

- **Verbs ending in -e, drop the -e and take the -ing suffix.**
  dance - dancing **but** *see - seeing*
- **Verbs ending in one stressed vowel between two consonants, double the last consonant and take the -ing suffix.**
  run - running *get - getting*
  but *open - opening*
- **Verbs ending in -l, double the -l and take the -ing suffix.**
  travel - travelling
- **Verbs ending in -ie, drop the -ie and take -y + -ing.**
  lie - lying *die - dying*

1 **Add -ing to the verbs and put them in the correct boxes.**

talk, dive, swim, shop, lie, study, mend, write, try, take, cook, stop, sleep, die, sit

+ ing	-ie ➡ y + ing
talking	
-e ➡ ing	**double consonant + ing**

2 **Fill in the gaps with the *present continuous*.**

1 We .....*are/'re tidying*..... (tidy) the garden.
2 I ..... (not/do) my homework.
3 ..... (Dad/paint) the living-room?
4 He ..... (run).
5 The girls ..... (play) with their dolls.
6 John ..... (study) at university.
7 Helen and I ..... (make) dinner.
8 ..... (you/listen) to the radio?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Use

We use the present continuous:

- **for actions happening now, at the moment of speaking.**



*He **is reading** a book right now.*

- **for temporary actions happening around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.**



*She **is practising** for a concert these days. (She's not practising right now; she's resting.)*

- **with 'always' for actions happening too often and about which we wish to express our annoyance or criticism.**



*'You're **always interrupting** me!' (annoyance)*

- **for fixed arrangements in the near future.**



*He **is flying** to Milan in an hour. (It's been arranged.)*

Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present continuous include: *now, at the moment, these days, at present, always, tonight, still, etc.*

3 **Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the *present continuous*.**



Four people **1)** ...*are sitting*... (sit) at a table. They are in a restaurant. They **2)** ..... (have) dinner. They **3)** ..... (wear) smart clothes. The man **4)** ..... (wear) a suit. The parents **5)** ..... (smile) at each other and they **6)** ..... (talk). The children **7)** ..... (listen). The girl **8)** ..... (drink) some Coke. The boy **9)** ..... (eat) some bread. They **10)** ..... (enjoy) their meal.

Short Answers

In short answers we use only Yes or *No*, the subject pronoun and the auxiliary verb *is/isn't* or *are/aren't*. We do not repeat the whole question.

Are you leaving?	Yes, I am/we are.	No, I'm not/we aren't.
Is he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it is.	No, he/she/it isn't.
Are they ...?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

4 **Look at the picture in ex. 3 again. In pairs, ask and answer questions, as in the example.**

1 the parents / wear / sports clothes?
SA: Are the parents wearing sports clothes?
SB: No, they aren't. They're wearing smart clothes.
2 the four people / have / dinner?
3 the children / talk?
4 the girl / drink / some juice?
5 the boy / eat / some ice-cream?

LIVEWORKSHEETS