

The Present Continuous

The Present Continuous is basic in English to begin to gain self-confidence, since it is the easiest verb tense used in the English language. It is used to describe actions that are happening at the same time as one speaks or cyclical situations that occur over a defined period of time.

The present continuous tense is formed with the subject plus the present particle form (-ing) of the main verb and the present continuous tense of the verb to be: am, is, are. A simple example of this tense is: He is swimming. Some other forms of this tense are: I am singing at church today.

Structure of the present continuous in English

Let's see the correct structure to use the present continuous of English in its affirmative, negative and interrogative modes.

Modo afirmativo del present continuous

Sujeto + verbo to be + verbo en gerundio + complemento

Modo negativo del present continuous

Sujeto + verbo to be + not + verbo en gerundio + complemento

Modo interrogativo del present continuous

Verbo to be + sujeto + verbo en gerundio + complemento + ?

The present continuous is formed with the verb TO BE as auxiliary and the gerund form of the corresponding verb. That is, if you detect that in the sentence there is a verb ending in -ING, it will be a continuous form.

The present continuous has 5 main uses: 1. Clearly explain actions that happen at the same moment in which it is described. For example:

He is learning english.

2. Provide context when expressing current situations. Normally these sentences are accompanied by adverbs such as recently, currently or lately, among others. For example:

She is crying a lot lately.

3. They express future events or actions with certainty. For example:

We are going to the cinema next Friday.

4. Describe momentary actions or events. For example:

He's talking right now, but yesterday he was unconscious.

5. Indicate situations that occur frequently. In these sentences it is necessary to add adverbs such as always, always, constantly, among others, to reinforce their context. For example:

He is always running at 6 am.

4 multiple-choice questions

Question 1:

What is the correct structure of the Present Continuous tense?

- a) Subject + verb to be + base form of the verb
- b) Subject + verb to be + gerund (-ing) form of the verb
- c) Subject + verb to be + past participle of the verb
- d) Subject + gerund (-ing) form of the verb

Question 2:

Which of the following sentences is an example of the Present Continuous tense?

- a) She reads books every day.
- b) He is swimming right now.
- c) They went to the park yesterday.
- d) I have eaten breakfast.

Question 3:

What is one of the main uses of the Present Continuous tense?

- a) To describe past events
- b) To explain actions happening at the moment of speaking
- c) To talk about completed actions

d) To express hypothetical situations

Question 4:

Which adverb is commonly used with the Present Continuous to indicate frequent actions?

- a) Yesterday
- b) Always
- c) Never
- d) Last week

3 questions true or false

Question 1:

The affirmative mood of the present continuous in English is formed with the subject, the verb "to be" and the main verb in the gerund (-ing).

- a) true
- b) false

Question 2:

To form the negative mood of the present continuous in English, the word "not" or "n't" is placed after the auxiliary verb "to be".

- a) true
- b) false

Question 3:

Verb to be + subject + gerund verb + complement + ?

- a) true
- b) false

3 association questions

Question 1:

Match the following sentences with their correct use of the Present Continuous tense:

He is learning English.

She is crying a lot lately.

We are going to the cinema next Friday.

- a) Describing a future event with certainty
- b) Explaining an action happening at the moment
- c) Providing context for a current situation

Question 2:

Match the following adverbs with the correct use of the Present Continuous tense:

Right now

Lately

Always

- a) Indicating frequent actions
- b) Describing actions happening at the moment
- c) Providing context for current situations

Question 3:

Match the following sentences with their correct structure in the Present Continuous tense:

I am singing at church today.

He is always running at 6 am.

Are they playing soccer right now?

- a) Affirmative
- b) Negative
- c) Interrogative