

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about the present continuous.
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we conjugate verbs in the present continuous? 2. The negative form of the present continuous 3. The present continuous in questions 4. When do we use the present continuous?

1. How do we conjugate verbs in the present continuous?

The present continuous is formed by conjugating the verb “to be” at the Present Simple and adding the -ing form of the main verb in the sentence.

Examples:

Infinitive	to eat	to smile	to play	to live
I	am eating	am smiling	am playing	am living
You	are eating	are smiling	are playing	are living
He/She/It	is eating	is smiling	is playing	is living
We	are eating	are smiling	are playing	are living
You	are eating	are smiling	are playing	are living
They	are eating	are smiling	are playing	are living

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Present Continuous cannot be used with certain verbs called “**stative verbs**”.

These include:

- Thoughts and feelings
To believe, to love, to prefer, to (dis)like, etc.
- Senses
To smell, to taste, to appear, to sound, etc.
- Possession
To have, to own, etc.
- Abstract
To need, to agree, to want, etc.

Exercise:

Fill in the gaps with the verb conjugated to the present continuous tense:

1. Lola _____ (to study) with her classmates.
2. I _____ (to cook) for my family.
3. Penny and her sister _____ (to clean) their bedrooms.

Answers:

1. is studying
2. am cooking
3. are cleaning

2. The negative form of the present continuous

To build a negative sentence in the present continuous, we will use the following structure:

Be + not + main verb's -ing form

Examples:

I am not thinking about him.

They aren't coming back from their trip.

My brother isn't planning on visiting us any time soon.

Exercise:

Write the negative form of these sentences:

1. Sonia is doing her best to help the customers.

_____.

2. My friends are coming to my birthday party.

_____.

3. I am spending New Year's Eve at my parent's house.

_____.

Answers:

1. Sonia isn't doing her best to help the customers.

2. My friends aren't coming to my birthday party.

3. I am not spending New Year's Eve at my parent's house.

3. Present Continuous in questions

To build an interrogative sentence in the present continuous, we will use the following structure:

Be + subject + main verb's -ing form

Examples:

Are you thinking about him?

Are they coming back from their trip?

Where is he going this weekend?

Exercise:

Write a question to get the following answers:

1. **No**, my friends are not helping me move.

_____.

2. **Yes**, she is doing her homework.

_____.

3. I am going **to Spain** for the holidays.

_____.

Answers:

1. Are your friends helping you move?

2. Is she doing her homework?

3. Where are you going for the holidays?

4. When do we use Present Continuous?

The present continuous is mostly used in these two cases:

a) To talk about something happening at the time of speaking.

Examples:

I am learning to speak French.

My sister is playing the guitar in the garden.

I am feeling a bit sad.

b) To talk about future arrangements

Examples:

We are meeting at 5.

He's going to the dentist this afternoon.

Exercise:

Conjugate the verb in parenthesis in the correct tense, either present simple or present continuous.

1. Lady Gaga (to perform) _____ in New York this weekend.
2. I (not feel) _____ well today, maybe I should go home.
3. They (to get) _____ ready for the party.

Answers:

1. is performing
2. am not feeling
3. are getting

However, this tense can also be used in the following cases:

- **To talk about something happening before and after a certain point.**

Examples:

By the time I arrive home, the children are already sleeping.

We are usually sleeping at 10 p.m.

- **To talk about temporary things**

Examples:

I am learning to speak French.

My ant is travelling around the world.

- **To talk about novelties**

Examples:

People are now posting pictures on Instagram instead of printing them nowadays.

Young people are listening to very loud music these days.

- **To talk about change or growth**

Examples:

My grandchildren are growing up very fast.

The temperatures are increasing dangerously.

- **To talk about something happening repetitively**

Examples:

My sister is always picking on me!

James is annoying. He's always complaining!

Exercise:

Write the verb in parenthesis in present simple or present continuous.

1. Lauren (to learn) _____ English very fast.
2. My bus (to leave) _____ at 3 this afternoon.
3. Tom and Jerry (always, to run) _____ around the house.

Answers:

1. is learning
2. leaves
3. are always running

Learn More:

https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verb-tenses_present-continuous.htm

<https://www.ef.co.uk/english-resources/english-grammar/present-continuous/>

<https://www.english-at-home.com/grammar-present-continuous-tense/>