

PRESENT CONTINUOUS – FORM

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POSITIVE	I am	I'm	working.	NEGATIVE	I am not	I'm not	working.
	You are	You're			You are not	You aren't	
	He is	He's			He is not	He isn't	
	She is	She's			She is not	She isn't	
	It is	It's			It is not	It isn't	
	We are	We're			We are not	We aren't	
	They are	They're			They are not	They aren't	

QUESTION	Am I	working?	SHORT ANSWER	Yes, I am	No, I am not	No, I'm not
	Are you			Yes, you are	No, you are not	No, you aren't
	Is he			Yes, he is	No, he is not	No, he isn't
	Is she			Yes, she is	No, she is not	No, she isn't
	Is it			Yes, it is	No, it is not	No, it isn't
	Are we			Yes, we are	No, we are not	No, we aren't
	Are they			Yes, they are	No, they are not	No, they aren't

-ING SPELLING	work	study	working	GENERAL RULE: add -ing	
	live	make	living		Consonant + -e : delete -e and add -ing
	run	swim	running		Consonant + vowel + consonant (stressed): double the consonant + -ing

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Level: beginner

We use the present progressive tense:

1. When somebody is doing something **at this moment**.

- Sarah **is changing** her clothes right now.
- Her boyfriend **is waiting** for her.
- We **are learning** the progressive tense in English.

2. When something **is happening at this moment**. When the action has started but hasn't finished.

It is snowing at the moment.

- The economy is growing at an exponential rate.
- The children are sleeping so please be quiet.

3. To talk about something that is happening **around the time of speaking** but not necessarily at that exact moment.

- - Alfredo is studying a lot for his exam.
 - I'm reading a great book. (Not necessary right at this moment)
 - We are planning a trip to Jamaica.

4. **future plans or arrangements:**

Mary **is going** to a new school next term.

What **are you doing** next week?

Stative verbs

We do **not** normally use the continuous **with stative verbs**. Stative verbs include:

- verbs of **thinking and feeling**:

<i>believe</i>	<i>love</i>	<i>recognise</i>	<i>understand</i>
<i>dislike</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>remember</i>	<i>want</i>
<i>know</i>	<i>prefer</i>	<i>suppose</i>	<i>wish</i>
<i>like</i>	<i>realise</i>	<i>think (= believe)</i>	

- verbs of the **senses**:

<i>appear</i>	<i>look</i>	<i>smell</i>	<i>taste</i>
<i>feel</i>	<i>seem</i>	<i>sound</i>	

- **others**:

<i>agree</i>	<i>belong</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>own</i>
<i>be</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>owe</i>	<i>possess</i>

We normally **use the simple present** instead:

I understand you. (NOT I ~~am understanding~~ you.)

This cake tastes wonderful. (NOT This cake ~~is tasting~~ wonderful.)

Level: intermediate

We also use the present continuous to talk about:

- something which is happening **before and after a specific time**:

*At eight o'clock we **are usually having** breakfast.*

*When I get home the children **are doing** their homework.*

- something which **we think is temporary**:

*Michael is at university. He's **studying** history.*

*I'm **working** in London for the next two weeks.*

- something which is **new** and **contrasts** with a previous state:

*These days most people **are using** email instead of writing letters.*

*What sort of clothes **are** teenagers **wearing** nowadays?*

*What sort of music **are** they **listening to**?*

- something which is **changing, growing or developing**:

*The children **are growing up** quickly.*

*The climate **is changing** rapidly.*

*Your English **is improving**.*

- something which happens **again and again** (or to express annoyance):

*It's **always raining** in London.*

*They **are always arguing**.*

*George is great. He's **always laughing**.*

Note that we normally use **always** with this use.

Level: advanced

We can use the present continuous to talk about the past when we are:

- **telling a story:**

The other day I'm just **walking** down the street when suddenly this man comes up to me and asks me to lend him some money. Well, he's **carrying** a big stick and he looks a bit dangerous, so I'm **wondering** what to do ...

- **summarising** a book, film or play:

Harry Potter is a pupil at Hogwarts school. One day when he **is playing** Quidditch he sees a strange object in the sky. He wonders what **is happening** ...

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