

PRESENT CONTINUOUS – FORM

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

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

-ING SPELLING

work
study

working
studying

GENERAL RULE: add **-ing**

live
make

living
making

Consonant + **-e** : delete **-e** and add **-ing**

run
swim

running
swimming

Consonant + vowel + consonant (stressed):
double the consonant + **-ing**

t e s t - e n g l i s h . c o m

Χρησιμοποιούμε τον present continuous για να μιλήσουμε για:

- μια πράξη που συμβαίνει τώρα (1)
- μια πράξη που εξελίσσεται τώρα (2) (ξεκίνησε στο παρελθόν και συνεχίζεται τώρα μέχρι κάποια στιγμή στο μέλλον)
- μία οριστική ρύθμιση/μια πράξη που κανονίζουμε να γίνει στο μέλλον (3).

Παραδείγματα:

- Please be quiet. I'm watching television. (1)
- She's studying Italian at the university. (2)
- They're booking the hotel tomorrow. (3)

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**:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| believe dislike know like | love hate prefer realise | recognise remember suppose think (= believe) | understand want wish |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|

- verbs of the **senses**:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| appear feel | look seem | smell sound | taste |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------|

- others:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| agree be | belong disagree | need owe | own possess |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|

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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