

Present Continuous

Action, happening now!

A

STRUCTURE

AM/IS/ARE + ING

I **AM** driving.

He/she/it **IS** working.

We/you/they **ARE** doing.



B

The present continuous is used for **actions** going on **in the moment of speaking** and for actions taking place only for a short period of time. It is also used to express development and actions that are arranged for the near future.

Present continuous is also known as present progressive.

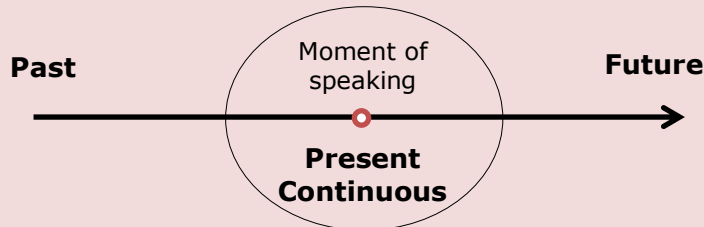
Please don't make so much noise. I'm working.

Where's Margaret? She's having a bath.

Let's go out now. It isn't raining any more.

ACTION

NOW



C

Affirmative	Negative	Question
I am going	I am not going	Am I going?
You are going	You aren't going.	Are you going?
He, she, it is going	He, she, it isn't going	Is he, she, it going?
We are going	We aren't going	Are we going?
You are going	You aren't going	Are you going?
They are going	They aren't going	Are they going?

D

For something which we think is temporary:

Michael is at university. He's studying history.

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

For something which happens again and again:

It's always raining in London.

They are always arguing.



To talk about the future and has been arranged or planned:

Mary is going to a new school next term.

What are you doing next week?

Exercises

1) Fill in the blank spaces with the present progressive tense of the verbs in parentheses.

- a) He is fixing my bike in the garage. (fix) 
- b) I _____ Mom in the kitchen. (help) 
- c) My sister and I _____ television in our bedroom. (watch)
- d) They _____ with us to the museum. (come)
- e) We _____ some pictures for Aunt Susan. (paint)
- f) The boys and girls _____ in the hall. (dance)

2) Complete the sentences with one of the following verbs in the correct form:

- a) You are working hard today. Yes, I have a lot to do. (work)
- b) I _____ Christine. Do you know where she is? (look for)
- c) It _____ dark. Should I turn on the light? (get)
- d) Have you got an umbrella? It _____ to rain. (start)
- e) You _____ a lot of noise. Could you be quieter? (make)
- f) Why are all these people here? What _____ (happen)?

3) Use the words in brackets to complete the questions.

- a) Is Joseph working this week? No, he's on holiday. (Joseph/work)
- b) Why _____ at me like that? What's the matter? (you/look)
- c) Jenny is a student at university. Is she? What _____? (she/study)
- d) _____ to the radio or can I turn it off? (anybody/listen)
- e) How is your English? _____ better? (it/get)

4) Put the verb into the correct form. Sometimes you need the negative (I'm not doing etc.).

- a) I'm tired. I am going to bed now. Goodnight! (go)
- b) We can go out now. It _____ any more. (rain)
- c) I _____ it very much. (enjoy)
- d) Catherine phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France.
She _____ a great time and doesn't want to come back. (have)
- e) I want to lose weight, so this week I _____ lunch. (eat)
- f) Angela has just started evening classes. She _____ German. (learn)
- g) They had an argument. They _____ to each other. (speak)

5) Read this conversation between Brian and Sarah. Put the verbs into the correct form.

SARAH: Brian! How nice to see you! What **(1)** _____ (you/ do) these days?

BRIAN: I **(2)** _____ (train) to be a supermarket manager.

SARAH: Really? What's it like? **(3)** _____ (you / enjoy) it?

BRIAN: It's all right. What about you?

SARAH: Well, actually I **(4)** _____ (not /work) at the moment.

I **(5)** _____ (try) to find a job but it's not easy. But I'm very busy.

I **(6)** _____ (decorate) my flat.

BRIAN: **(7)** _____ (you / do) it alone?

SARAH: No, some friends of mine **(8)** _____ (help) me