

Unit 1

Present continuous (I am doing)

A

Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She **is driving** to work.

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
The action is not finished.

Am/is/are + -ing is the *present continuous*:

I	am	(= I'm)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he's etc.)	working
we/you/they	are	(= we're etc.)	doing etc.



B

I am doing something = I'm in the middle of doing it; I've started doing it and I haven't finished:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He's **having** a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- (*at a party*) Hi, Jane. **Are you enjoying** the party? (*not* Do you enjoy)
- What's all that noise? What's **going** on? (= What's happening?)

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm **reading** a really good book at the moment.
It's about a man who ...

Steve is not reading the book at the time of speaking.
He means that he has started it, but has not finished it yet.
He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian. (*but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking*)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C

You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're **working hard today**. (*not* You work hard today)
- B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

D

We use the present continuous when we talk about changes happening around now, especially with these verbs:

get change become increase rise fall grow improve begin start

- Is** your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **beginning** to enjoy it now. (*not* I begin)

Exercises

1.1 The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

- 1 Please don't make so much noise.
- 2 I need to eat something soon.
- 3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.
- 4 We need to leave soon.
- 5 They don't need their car any more.
- 6 Things are not so good at work.
- 7 It isn't true what they said.
- 8 We're going to get wet.

- a It's getting late.
- b They're lying.
- c It's starting to rain.
- d They're trying to sell it.
- e I'm getting hungry.
- f ~~I'm trying to work.~~
- g I'm looking for an apartment.
- h The company is losing money.

- 1 f
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

1.2 Complete the conversations.

- 1 A: I saw Brian a few days ago.
B: Oh, did you? What's he doing these days? (what / he / do)
A: He's at university.
B: _____ ? (what / he / study)
A: Psychology.
B: _____ it? (he / enjoy)
A: Yes, he says it's a very good course.
- 2 A: Hi, Nicola. How _____ ? (your new job / go)
B: Not bad. It wasn't so good at first, but _____ better now.
(it / get)
A: What about Daniel? Is he OK?
B: Yes, but _____ his work right now. (he / not / enjoy)
He's been in the same job for a long time and _____ to get bored
with it. (he / begin)

1.3 Put the verb into the correct form, positive (I'm doing etc.) or negative (I'm not doing etc.).

- 1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
- 2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) any more.
- 3 You can turn off the radio. _____ (I / listen) to it.
- 4 Kate phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France. _____ (she / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
- 5 I want to lose weight, so this week _____ (I / eat) lunch.
- 6 Andrew has just started evening classes. _____ (he / learn) Japanese.
- 7 Paul and Sally have had an argument. _____ (they / speak) to each other.
- 8 _____ (I / get) tired. I need a rest.
- 9 Tim _____ (work) today. He's taken the day off.
- 10 _____ (I / look) for Sophie. Do you know where she is?

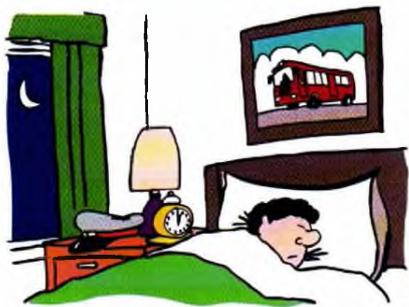
1.4 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

start get ~~increase~~ change rise

- 1 The population of the world is increasing very fast.
- 2 The world _____ . Things never stay the same.
- 3 The situation is already bad and it _____ worse.
- 4 The cost of living _____ . Every year things are more expensive.
- 5 The weather _____ to improve. The rain has stopped, and the wind isn't as strong.

Present simple (I do)

A Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep.
He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. (He is a bus driver.)

Drive(s)/work(s)/do(es) etc. is the *present simple*:

I/we/you/they	drive/work/do etc.
he/she/it	drives/works/does etc.

B We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- I usually **go** away at weekends.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.
- The cafe **opens** at 7.30 in the morning.

Remember:

I **work** ... but He **works** ... They **teach** ... but My sister **teaches** ...

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

C We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

do does	I/we/you/they he/she/it	work? drive? do?	I/we/you/they he/she/it	don't doesn't	work drive do
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- I come from Canada. Where **do you come** from?
- I **don't go** away very often.
- What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do** etc.):

- 'What **do you do**?' 'I work in a shop.'
- He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.

D We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- How often** do you **go** to the dentist?
- Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- Robert usually **goes** away **two or three times a year**.

E I promise / I apologise etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you *promise* to do something, you can say 'I **promise** ...'; when you *suggest* something, you can say 'I **suggest** ...':

- I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- 'What do you **suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

In the same way we say: I **apologise** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **agree** ... / I **refuse** ... etc.

Exercises

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) connect(s) drink(s) live(s) open(s) ~~speaks~~ take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 I don't often _____ coffee.
- 3 The swimming pool _____ at 7.30 every morning.
- 4 Bad driving _____ many accidents.
- 5 My parents _____ in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games _____ place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal _____ the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julie doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time _____ (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I've got a car, but I _____ (not / use) it much.
- 4 'Where _____ (Ricardo / come) from?' 'From Cuba.'
- 5 'What _____ (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 It _____ (take) me an hour to get to work. How long _____ (it / take) you?
- 7 Look at this sentence. What _____ (this word / mean)?
- 8 David isn't very fit. He _____ (not / do) any sport.

2.3 Use the following verbs to complete the sentences. Sometimes you need the negative:

believe eat flow ~~go~~ ~~grow~~ make rise tell translate

- 1 The earth goes round the sun.
- 2 Rice doesn't grow in Britain.
- 3 The sun _____ in the east.
- 4 Bees _____ honey.
- 5 Vegetarians _____ meat.
- 6 An atheist _____ in God.
- 7 An interpreter _____ from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who _____ the truth.
- 9 The River Amazon _____ into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often do you play tennis ?
- 2 Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
_____ your sister _____ ?
- 3 You know that Lisa reads a newspaper every day. You want to know which one. Ask her.
_____ ?
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.
_____ ?
- 5 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
_____ ?
- 6 You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
_____ ?

2.5 Complete using the following:

I apologise I insist I promise I recommend ~~I suggest~~

- 1 Mr Evans is not in the office today. I suggest you try calling him tomorrow.
- 2 I won't tell anybody what you said. _____ .
- 3 (*in a restaurant*) You must let me pay for the meal. _____ .
- 4 _____ for what I did. It won't happen again.
- 5 The new restaurant in Hill Street is very good. _____ it.

Present continuous and present simple 2
(I am doing and I do)

A

We use continuous forms for actions and happenings that have started but not finished (they **are eating** / it **is raining** etc.). Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in this way. We don't say 'I am knowing' or 'they are liking'; we say 'I **know**', 'they **like**'.

The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous:

like	want	need	prefer			
know	realise	suppose	mean	understand	believe	remember
belong	fit	contain	consist	seem		

- I'm hungry. I **want** something to eat. (*not* I'm wanting)
- Do you **understand** what I **mean**?
- Anna **doesn't seem** very happy at the moment.

B

Think

When **think** means 'believe' or 'have an opinion', we do not use the continuous:

- I **think** Mary is Canadian, but I'm not sure. (*not* I'm thinking)
- What **do** you **think** of my plan? (= What is your opinion?)

When **think** means 'consider', the continuous is possible:

- I'm **thinking** about what happened. I often **think** about it.
- Nicky **is thinking** of giving up her job. (= she is considering it)

C

See hear smell taste

We normally use the present simple (not continuous) with these verbs:

- Do you **see** that man over there? (*not* Are you seeing)
- This room **smells**. Let's open a window.

We often use **can** + **see/hear/smell/taste**:

- I **can hear** a strange noise. **Can** you **hear** it?

D

Look feel

You can use the present simple or continuous to say how somebody looks or feels now:

- You **look** well today. *or* You're **looking** well today.
- How **do** you **feel** now? *or* How **are** you **feeling** now?

but

- I usually **feel** tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

E

He is selfish and He is being selfish

He's **being** = He's behaving / He's acting. Compare:

- I can't understand why he's **being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
(**being** selfish = behaving selfishly at the moment)
- He never thinks about other people. He **is** very selfish. (*not* He is being)
(= He is selfish generally, not only at the moment)

We use **am/is/are being** to say how somebody is *behaving*. It is not usually possible in other sentences:

- It's hot today. (*not* It is being hot)
- Sarah **is** very tired. (*not* is being tired)

Exercises

4.1 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Are you hungry? Do you want (you / want) something to eat?
- 2 Don't put the dictionary away. (I / use) it.
- 3 Don't put the dictionary away. (I / need) it.
- 4 Who is that man? What (he / want)?
- 5 Who is that man? Why (he / look) at us?
- 6 Alan says he's 80 years old, but nobody (believe) him.
- 7 She told me her name, but (I / not / remember) it now.
- 8 (I / think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it?
- 9 (I / think) you should sell your car. (you / not / use) it very often.
- 10 Air (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen.

4.2 Use the words in brackets to make sentences. (You should also study Unit 3 before you do this exercise.)

<p>1</p>  <p>(you / not / seem / very happy today) You <u>don't seem</u> very happy today.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>(what / you / do?) Be quiet! (I / think)</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>(who / this umbrella / belong to?) I have no idea.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>(the dinner / smell / good)</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Excuse me. (anybody / sit / there?) No, it's free.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>(these gloves / not / fit / me) They're too small.</p>

4.3 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Nicky is thinking of giving up her job. OK
- 2 Are you believing in God?
- 3 I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat?
- 4 This sauce is great. It's tasting really good.
- 5 I'm thinking this is your key. Am I right?

4.4 Complete the sentences using the most suitable form of **be**. Use **am/is/are being** (continuous) where possible; otherwise use **am/is/are** (simple).

- 1 I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
- 2 Sarah _____ very nice to me at the moment. I wonder why.
- 3 You'll like Sophie when you meet her. She _____ very nice.
- 4 You're usually very patient, so why _____ so unreasonable about waiting ten more minutes?
- 5 Why isn't Steve at work today? _____ ill?