

Present Continuous

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Grammar Notes

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

A. Use

Use the present continuous for actions that are happening **now** (continuing actions).

Present Continuous	
Diagram	
Common Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • now • right now • at the moment • at this time • nowadays • these days • currently • presently
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am writing an email now. • My sister is taking a nap. • These days, I'm learning French. • We are leaving right now. • The students are working in groups. • He's listening to music at the moment.

Grammar Notes cont.

B. Patterns for Positive Sentences

Pattern #1:

Be + -ing V

To form the present continuous (also called the *present progressive*), use the *Be* verb with a present participle (-ing form). The *Be* verb is often shortened into a *contraction* in speaking and writing.

	Pronouns	Contractions
Singular	I am walking to work.	I' m walking to work.
	You are watching TV.	You' re watching TV.
	He is playing tennis.	He' s playing tennis.
	She is washing the car.	She' s washing the car.
	It is raining .	It' s raining .
Plural	We are eating dinner.	We' re eating dinner.
	You are watching a film together.	You' re watching a film together.
	They are singing .	They' re singing .

	Nouns	Contractions
Singular	The dog is chasing the cat.	The dog' s chasing the cat. <i>(possible, but informal)</i>
Plural	The children are sleeping .	—

Grammar Notes cont.

C. Patterns for Negative Sentences

Pattern #2:

Be + not + -ing V

To make a negative present continuous sentence, use *not* between *Be* and the *-ing* verb. When the subject is a pronoun, there are two common ways to make contractions (short forms) of the negative verb.

	Pronouns	Contractions	
Singular	I am not calling him back.	I'm not calling him back.	—
	You are not cooking dinner.	You're not cooking dinner.	You aren't cooking dinner.
	He is not washing his car.	He's not washing his car.	He isn't washing his car.
	She is not playing the guitar.	She's not playing the guitar.	She isn't playing the guitar.
	It is not going well.	It's not going well.	It isn't going well.
Plural	We are not moving to a new city.	We're not moving to a new city.	We aren't moving to a new city.
	You are not studying together.	You're not studying together.	You aren't studying together.
	They are not swimming .	They're not swimming .	They aren't swimming .

	Nouns	Contractions	
Singular	That driver is not stopping at the red light.	That driver's not stopping at the red light. <i>(possible, but informal)</i>	That driver isn't stopping at the red light. <i>(more common)</i>
Plural	The students are not paying attention.	—	The students aren't paying attention.

Grammar Notes cont.

D. Patterns for Yes/No Questions

Pattern #3:

Be + Subject + -ing V

Yes/No questions in the present continuous tense begin with the *Be* verb. There are two common ways to make contractions for answers with *No*.

	Pronouns	Short Answers	
		Positive	Negative
Singular	Am I bothering you?	Yes, you are .	No, you're not . / No, you aren't .
	Are you studying right now?	Yes, I am .	No, I'm not .
	Is he doing his laundry?	Yes, he is .	No, he's not . / No, he isn't .
	Is she playing basketball?	Yes, she is .	No, she's not . / No, she isn't .
	Is it snowing ?	Yes, it is .	No, it's not . / No, it isn't .
Plural	Are we getting a raise?	Yes, we are .	No, we're not . / No, we aren't .
	Are you packing for your trip?	Yes, we are .	No, we're not . / No, we aren't .
	Are they shopping ?	Yes, they are .	No, they're not . / No, they aren't .

	Nouns	Short Answers	
		Positive	Negative
Singular	Is the manager speaking to her staff?	Yes, she is .	No, she's not . / No, she isn't .
Plural	Are the neighbours walking their dog?	Yes, they are .	No, they're not . / No, they aren't .

Grammar Notes cont.

D. Patterns for Yes/No Questions cont.

Note #1:

Do not use a contraction in short answers with *Yes*.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| ✗ Yes, I'm. | ✗ Yes, he's. | ✗ Yes, they're. |
| ✓ Yes, I am. | ✓ Yes, he is. | ✓ Yes, they are. |

Note #2:

When the short answer is *No*, there are two common ways to make contractions of negative verbs, except when the pronoun is *I*.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| ✓ 're not | ✓ 's not | ✓ 'm not |
| ✓ aren't | ✓ isn't | ✗ amn't |

E. Patterns for Wh- Questions

Pattern #4:

Wh- + Be + Subject + -ing V

The *Be* verb follows the *Wh-* word (*who, what, when, where, why, how, which, whose*) in this type of present continuous question.

Questions	Answers
What are you doing now?	I'm doing my homework.
Who is she texting ?	She's texting her flatmate.
Why are your friends running ?	Their teacher is telling them to hurry up.

Grammar Notes cont.

F. Spelling Rules

To spell verbs with an *-ing* ending, use the following rules.

#	Rules	Examples
1	If the verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern, double the final consonant and add <i>-ing</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> run → running forget → forgetting put → putting
2	If the verb ends in <i>-e</i> , drop it and add <i>-ing</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write → writing give → giving choose → choosing
3	For almost all other cases, add <i>-ing</i> to the base verb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> catch → catching ski → skiing try → trying
4	There are a few exceptions to the normal spelling rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lie → lying visit → visiting panic → panicking

Exercise 1

POSITIVE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences below with verbs from the Word List.
Use each verb only once. Use the present continuous tense.

- Ex. It is a beautiful day. The sun is shining.
1. My mother is busy now. She _____ dinner.
 2. My father is in the garage. He _____ the car.
 3. The students are in the classroom. They _____ to their teacher.
 4. My son is in his room with his toys. He _____.
 5. Ellie is in her bedroom. She _____ for her exam.
 6. Amira and Ali are at a party. They _____.
 7. You should take your umbrella. It _____.
 8. Vasha is going to a wedding. She _____ a beautiful dress.
 9. The floor is dirty. Mika _____ it.
 10. Sayid is at the supermarket. He _____ food.
 11. It is 12:00. The children _____ lunch.
 12. Bianca has a bad cold. She _____.
 13. The students are in the library. They _____.
 14. My grandfather is asleep on the sofa. He _____.

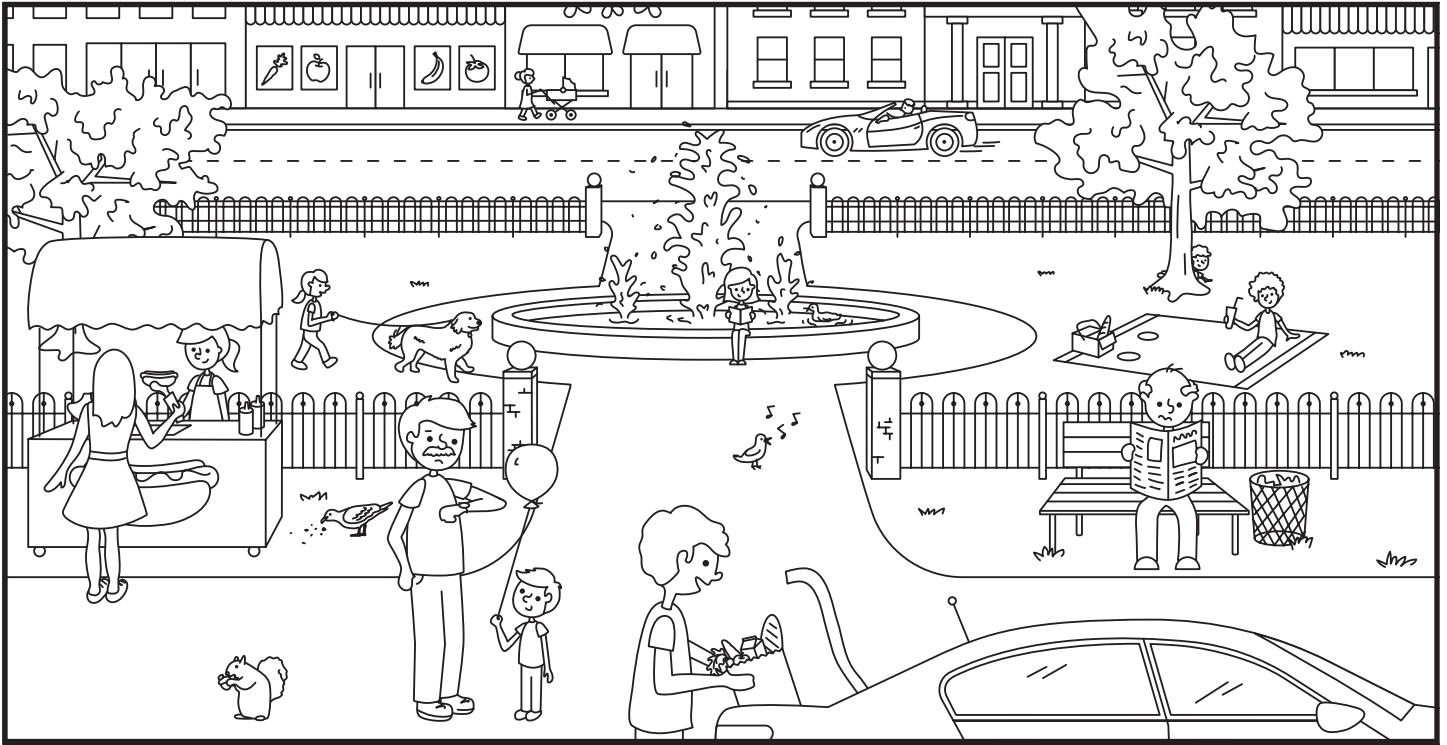
Word List:

- wear
- study
- sneeze
- listen
- rain
- fix
- dance
- eat
- read
- shine
- buy
- make
- wash
- snore
- play

Exercise 2

WRITING

Look at the picture. Write 10 sentences using the present continuous tense.



Ex. *The man is looking at his watch.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Exercise 3

NEGATIVE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences below with verbs from the Word List.
Write the same present continuous verb twice in each pair
of sentences, but make the first sentence negative.

Word List:

- | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| • drink | • eat | • drive |
| • go | • study | • speak |
| • wash | • listen | • watch |
| • play | • write | • ride |
| • wear | • snow | • smoke |

- Ex. Junko isn't wearing wearing a blue dress. She is wearing a black dress.
- Mohammed _____ mathematics. He _____ history.
 - The boys _____ football. They _____ hockey.
 - I _____ coffee. I _____ tea.
 - She _____ a letter to her grandmother. She _____ to her aunt.
 - We _____ a new car. We _____ a used car.
 - I _____ fish for dinner. I _____ steak.
 - She _____ sports on TV. She _____ a film.
 - The tourists _____ Chinese. They _____ Japanese.
 - He _____ a cigarette. He _____ a pipe.
 - She _____ the windows. She _____ her clothes.
 - They _____ to classical music. They _____ to rock music.
 - We _____ to Hawaii for our holiday. We _____ to Mexico.
 - It _____ inside the house. It _____ outside.
 - My daughter _____ a bicycle. She _____ a horse.

Exercise 4

YES/NO QUESTIONS

Write short answers to these Yes/No questions.

Ex. Are you jogging at the moment? **(yes)**

Yes, I am.

1. Is Mrs. Jackson typing up the report? **(yes)**

2. Are you reading Shakespeare right now? **(no)**

3. Are they looking for a new car? **(no)**

4. Are you out shopping for my gift now? **(no)**

5. Is your dog eating more food these days? **(yes)**

6. Is she preparing for her next class right now? **(no)**

7. Are the children playing? **(yes)**

8. Is Mario taking a test at the moment? **(no)**

9. Is the teen looking at his phone? **(yes)**

10. Is your daughter learning to tie her shoe laces nowadays? **(yes)**

Exercise 5

ACT IT OUT

Your teacher will give you a card with an action. Act it out! Your classmates will ask what you are doing. Respond using a short answer. Then guess what your classmates are doing.

Example:

Lisa: *[gets a card that says dance]*

Lisa: *[starts dancing]*

Mark: Are you jumping?

Lisa: No, I'm not.

Kim: Are you dancing?

Lisa: Yes, I am!

Exercise 6

WH- QUESTIONS

Look at the answers below. Then write questions using *Wh-* words.

Ex. *What are you eating?*

I'm eating a sandwich.

1. _____

He's going to the shop.

2. _____

The teacher is writing on the blackboard.

3. _____

I'm studying because I want to do well on the test.

4. _____

I'm talking to my mother.

5. _____

My flatmates are buying milk and bread.

6. _____

Kate is jogging around the track.

7. _____

I'm doing well, thanks.

8. _____

He is wearing his brother's jacket.

9. _____

We are driving to the shopping centre.

10. _____

I'm taking vitamins because I want to be healthy.

Exercise 7

GUESSING GAME

Find a partner. Your teacher will give you some action cards.

A. Speaking

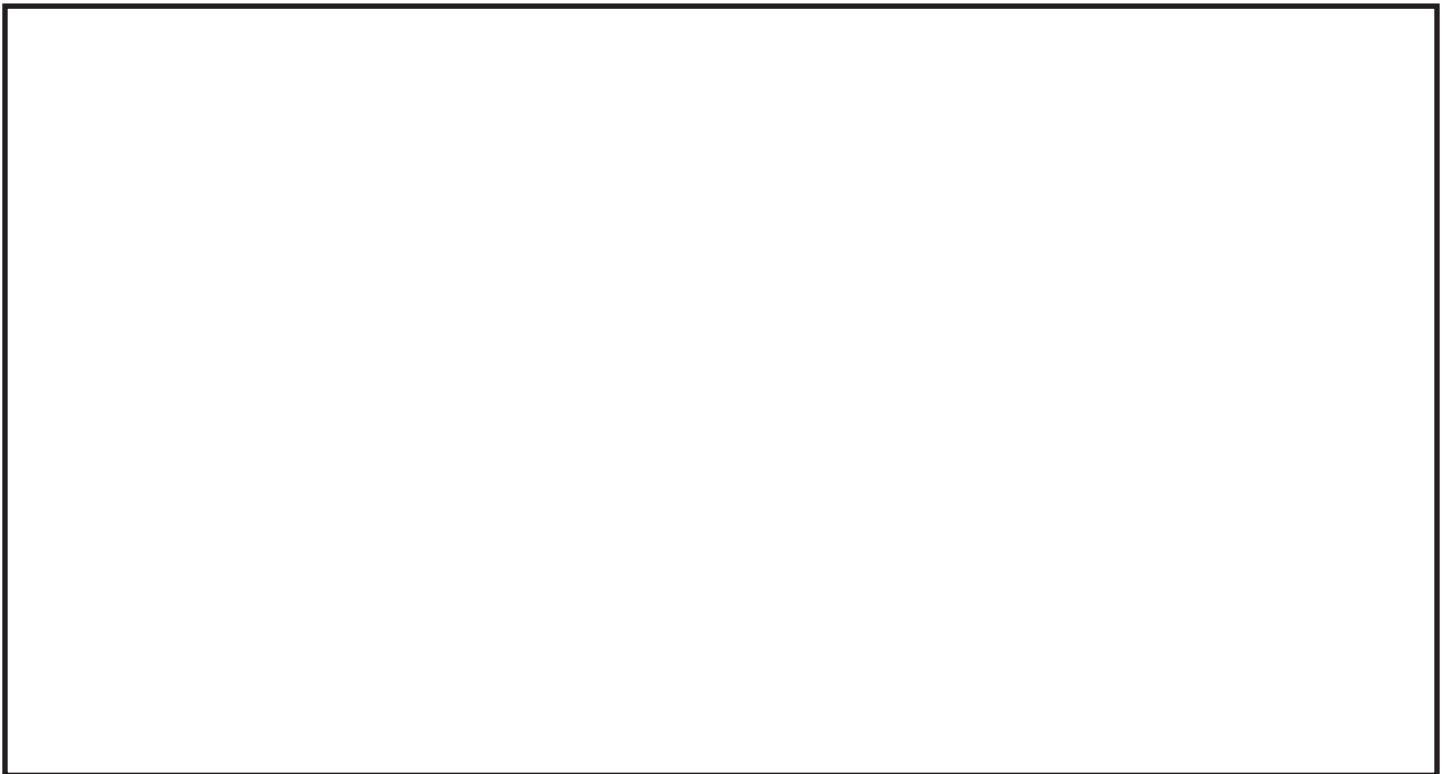
Take turns choosing a card and **describing** your action to your partner. Do not say the words on the card and do not act! Your partner will try to guess what you are doing. Use present continuous verbs. Save your last card for Part B below.

Example:

- A: I am using my voice. I am making a loud sound.
 B: Are you snoring?
 A: No, I'm not. I'm making a beautiful sound.
 B: Are you singing?
 A: Yes, I am!

B. Drawing

For your last action card, do not speak. Draw the action in the box below. Your partner will try to guess the action.



Exercise 8

FIND THE ERROR

Find one error in each sentence. Write the correct sentences below.

Ex. You's working on your computer.

You're working on your computer.

1. My neighbour are mowing the lawn.

2. Are studying you right now?

3. I not am speaking to her at the moment.

4. He is writting an essay in class.

5. Michael and Lindy is watching a film.

6. She's walking her dog yesterday.

7. Where you are going?

8. My brothers're making spaghetti.

9. They're skiing down the mountain.

10. My friends is playing baseball now.

Exercise 9

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

1. _____ learning English quickly.
a) You's
b) You're
2. Ahmed _____ his car.
a) are washing
b) is washing
3. _____ your homework right now?
a) Are you doing
b) Are doing you
4. I _____ to the radio at the moment.
a) not listening
b) am not listening
5. Tara is _____ the plates on the table.
a) putting
b) puting
6. Is he watching TV? Yes, _____.
a) he's
b) he is
7. We _____ the apartment. The guests will be here soon.
a) are cleaning
b) is cleaning
8. My father _____ in his favourite chair.
a) is siting
b) is sitting
9. Why _____ ?
a) is she crying
b) is crying she
10. Are you thinking about your family? No, I _____.
a) amn't
b) 'm not