

RESOURCE VIDEO

PRESENT CONTINUOUS OR PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

WHEN DO WE USE THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS?

We use the **Present Continuous** to talk about something that is happening right now.

EXAMPLES:

1. What are you doing? I'm recording a video.
2. You are watching this video.

THE VERB BE

I	am
you, we, they	are
he, she, it	is

THE "ING" FORM OF THE VERB

GOING/ SPEAKING/ EATING/ RUNNING/ SPEAKING/ LISTENING/ WATCHING

The "ING" form can be called the gerund or the present participle. When it's used as a verb in the continuous tense, it is the **present participle**.

HOW TO MAKE SENTENCES AND QUESTIONS IN THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCES:

Subject + BE + (verb-ing)

Ex. I am working right now.

Ex. We are driving.

Ex. The baby is sleeping.

NEGATIVE SENTENCES:

Subject + BE + NOT + (verb-ing)

Ex. I'm not doing the dishes right now.

Ex. The students aren't studying.

Ex. My computer isn't working.

*is not = isn't

* are not = aren't

INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES (QUESTIONS):

BE + Subject + (verb-ing)?

Ex. Am I cooking?

Ex. Aren't they sleeping?

Ex. Is it raining?

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SOME PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the baby doing?

• Possible answers: The baby is sleeping / is eating / is crying.

2. What are you watching?

• Possible answers: I'm watching TV/ a movie on Netflix/ a YouTube video/ the news.

3. What is your husband/ wife/ partner/ best friend doing right now?

• Possible answers: He is sleeping. / She is surfing the Internet. / He is working. / She is running.

4. What are you drinking?

• Possible answers: I'm drinking coffee/ water

5. What are the students doing?

• Possible answers: The students are taking a test. / The students are studying. / The students are working together on a project.

When speaking, the contracted form is often used instead of the full form:

I'm	I am
You're, We're, They're	You are, We are, They are
He's, She's, It's	He is, She is, It is

As mentioned on the previous class, there are many NON-ACTION verbs that cannot be used in the continuous tense.

Examples: Believe, Know, Cost, Hear, Understand

However, there are some exceptions. In informal/colloquial language, the continuous tense can be used, but they would be wrong on a test.

Examples:

Informal language: ("incorrect" but acceptable)

I'm really liking this movie. / I'm really liking this class.

Best option:

I really like this movie. / I really like this class.

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Examples of how the simple present and present continuous can have different meanings:

Tom is seeing Mary. = Tom is dating Mary to see if there is a romantic connection.

I see dead people. = I see (with my eyesight) dead people.

*There are more examples of this in the Present Simple PDF file

MORE EXAMPLES

The baby is sleeping.

The children are playing with their toys.

I'm making a birthday cake.

What are you drinking?

My computer isn't working.

Is it snowing?

The students aren't taking a test.

Tom is buying flowers for his wife.

Someone is knocking on the door.

Mrs. Johnson is walking her dog in the park.