**Present Continuous**

**FORM** **Present Continuous**

[AM / IS / ARE] + [VERB+ing]

**EXAMPLES:**

I am watching TV.

He is quickly learning the language.

**NOTE:** When you are using a verb tense with more than one part such as Present Continuous (is learning), adverbs often come between the first part and the second part (is quickly learning).

**USE 1** **Now**

Use the Present Continuous with [Continuous Verbs](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/types.html) to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.

**EXAMPLES:**

You are learning English now.

You are not swimming now.

I am sitting.

I am not standing.

They are reading their books.

They are not watching television.

What are you doing?

Why aren't you doing your homework?


**USE 2** **Longer Actions in Progress Now**

In English, *now* can mean "this second," "today," "this month," "this year," "this century" and so on. Sometimes we use the Present Continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second.

**EXAMPLES:** (All of these sentences can be said while eating dinner in a restaurant.)

I am studying to become a doctor.

I am not studying to become a dentist.

I am reading the book *Tom Sawyer*.

I am not reading any books right now.

Are you working on any special projects at work?

Aren't you teaching at the University now?


**USE 3** **Near Future**

Sometimes, speakers use the Present Continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.

**EXAMPLES:**

I am meeting some friends after work.

I am not going to the party tonight.

Is he visiting his parents next weekend.

Isn't he coming with us tonight.


**USE 4** **Repetition and Irritation with "Always"**

The Present Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happens. Notice that the meaning is like [Simple Present](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepresent.html) but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb+ing."

**EXAMPLES:**

She is always coming to class late.

He is constantly talking. I wish he would shut up.

I don't like them because they are always complaining.


**IMPORTANT** **Non-Continuous Verbs/ Mixed Verbs**

It is important to remember that [Non-Continuous Verbs](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/types.html) cannot be used in any "continuous" tenses. Also, certain "non-continuous" meanings for [Mixed Verbs](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/types.html) cannot be used in "continuous" tenses. To express the idea of "happening now", you must use [Simple Present USE 3](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepresent.html).

**EXAMPLES:**

She is loving chocolate. **Not Correct**

She loves chocolate. **Correct**

**ACTIVE / PASSIVE** **Present Continuous**

**EXAMPLES:**

Right now, Tom is writing the letter. **ACTIVE**

Right now, the letter is being written by Tom. **PASSIVE**