

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](#) 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](#) 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](#) cannot be used in any "continuous" tenses. Also, certain "non-continuous" meanings for [Mixed Verbs](#) cannot be used in "continuous" tenses. To express the idea of "happening now", you must use [Simple Present USE 3](#).

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**