

UNIT 6

Present Continuous



Is the sun **shining**?
Yes, it is.
Are the people **swimming**?
No, they aren't.
What **are they doing**?
They're **walking** along the beach.



What **are they doing** now?
They're **sunbathing**.

We form the present continuous with the auxiliary verb **to be** and the main verb with the **-ing** suffix.

Affirmative		Negative		Interrogative
Long form	Short form	Long form	Short form	
I am working	I'm working	I am not working	I'm not working	Am I working?
You are working	You're working	You are not working	You aren't working	Are you working?
He is working	He's working	He is not working	He isn't working	Is he working?
She is working	She's working	She is not working	She isn't working	Is she working?
It is working	It's working	It is not working	It isn't working	Is it working?
We are working	We're working	We are not working	We aren't working	Are we working?
You are working	You're working	You are not working	You aren't working	Are you working?
They are working	They're working	They are not working	They aren't working	Are they working?

Spelling Rules

- ◆ Verbs ending in **-e** drop the **-e** and take the **-ing** suffix. *write* ⇒ *writing* but *see* - *seeing*
- ◆ Verbs ending in **one stressed vowel** between **two consonants**, double the last consonant and take the **-ing** suffix. *sit* ⇒ *sitting*, *swim* ⇒ *swimming* but *open* - *opening*
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-l**, double the **l** and take the **-ing** suffix. *travel* ⇒ *travelling*
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-ie**, drop the **-ie** and take **-y + ing**. *lie* ⇒ *lying*, *die* ⇒ *dying*

1

Add -ing to the verbs and put them in the correct box.

walk, dance, swim, shop, lie, study, laugh, write, play, smoke, look, stop, sleep, die, run

+ ing

walking

-ie ⇒ y + ing

-e ⇒ ing

double consonant + ing

Use

We use the present continuous for:

- actions happening now, at the moment of speaking.



They are walking in the park now.

- temporary actions happening around now but not at the actual moment of speaking.



She is working hard these days. (Right now she is not working. She is yawning.)

Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present continuous are:

now, at the moment, at present, these days, etc.

2 Fill in with present continuous.

- He *is sitting* (sit) at the desk.
- They (play) football.
- She (eat) dinner.
- You (read) a book.
- The dog (sleep).
- Ann (swim).
- I (watch) TV.
- Tony (write) a letter.
- The birds (sing).
- Mum (make) a cake.

3 Write questions and negations as in the examples.

- He is riding a bicycle.
 ...*Is he riding a bicycle?*...
 ...*He isn't riding a bicycle...*...
- They are listening to the radio.

- She is drinking Coke.

- You are dancing.

- We are playing basketball.

- I am running.

4 Look at the pictures. Then, fill in the gaps with the correct verb in the present continuous.



- Look at that kangaroo! It ...*is carrying*.. its baby.
- Henry the car at the moment.
- Look at Helen! She her dog for a walk.
- John is late for work. He to catch the bus.
- Be quiet! Dad
- Susan is in her bedroom. She
- Mary is in the kitchen. She a cake.
- The children aren't in the house. They in the garden.
- She is busy. She a letter.

Short Answers

In short answers we use only Yes or No, the subject pronoun and the auxiliary verb to be. We do not repeat the main verb with the -ing suffix.

e.g. Are you studying? Yes, I am.

Are you ...?	Yes, I am/we are.	No, I'm not/we aren't.
Is he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it is.	No, he/she/it isn't.
Are they ...?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

5

Look at the picture, then, in pairs, ask and answer questions, as in the examples.



- (Jim / wash his car)
SA: *Is Jim washing his car?* SB: *Yes, he is.*
- (Tom / read a newspaper)
SA: *Is Tom reading a newspaper?*
SB: *No, he isn't. He's painting the gate.*
- (Ann / cut the grass)
- (the children / knit)
- (dogs / chase a cat)
- (postman / deliver letters)
- (Grandmother / stand by the gate)
- (Grandfather / write a letter)

6

Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous.



The people 1) *...are walking...* (walk) along the road. They 2) (wear) trousers and jackets. The boy 3) (push) his bicycle. He 4) (walk) away from the other people. He 5) (wear) trousers and a sweater. He 6) (wear) a helmet on his head.

NOTE: When the verb **have** is used in the present continuous it does not express possession but action.

- e.g. I'm having a bath. (= I'm in the bath.)
I'm having a shower. (= I'm in the shower.)
I'm having a lesson. (= I'm doing a lesson.)
I'm having breakfast/lunch/dinner. (= I'm eating breakfast/lunch/dinner.)

7

In pairs, ask and answer questions as in the example.

- answer the phone / have a bath
SA: *...Can you answer the phone?...*
SB: *...No, I'm sorry. I'm having a bath....*
- open the door / wash the dishes
.....
.....
- help in the garden / do my homework
.....
.....
- come to the phone / have a lesson
.....
.....
- tidy your room / write a letter
.....
.....
- help me with these bags / have a shower
.....
.....

8 In pairs, act out similar dialogues using the prompts below, as in the example.

e.g. Grandpa / kitchen / cook

e.g. Mum / Grandpa / kitchen / feed the dog

A

A: Grandpa, where are you?
B: I'm in the kitchen.
A: What are you doing?
B: I'm cooking.

B

A: Mum, where is Grandpa?
B: He's in the kitchen.
A: What's he doing?
B: He's feeding the dog.

Dad / Mum / living room / watch TV
Grandma / garden / water the flowers
Helen / Tom / dining room / have dinner
Helen / bathroom / wash my hair
Dad / uncle Phil / garage / clean his bike

9 Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous.



There are three people in the kitchen. The man with the white hair 1) *...is sitting...* (sit) at the table. He 2) *.....* (wear) a white shirt and a green apron. He 3) *.....* (put) the food on the plates. The other man and the woman 4) *.....* (stand) next to the cupboards. They 5) *.....* (prepare) food.

10 Describe this picture using the present continuous of the verbs in the list.

sit, smile, wear, hold, eat



11 Look at the pictures and fill in the blanks with the correct verb from the list in the present continuous.

shine, try, drink, use



12 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- 1 coming / the train / is?
Is the train coming?
- 2 why / is / barking / the dog?
.....
- 3 talking / phone / not / is / he / the / on.
.....
- 4 suitcases / are / packing / they / their.
.....
- 5 not / watching / she / is / TV.
.....
- 6 where / your / staying / are / friends?
.....
- 7 learning / am / at the moment / play / I / to / golf.
.....
- 8 you / going / shops / are / to / the?
.....

13 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 We looking for a new flat.
- 2 I am play tennis now.
- 3 George and Mary is watching TV.
- 4 What are you do?
- 5 You isn't listening to the teacher.
- 6 He reading a magazine.

14 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 Why is she singing? ...C...
- 2 What are you writing?
- 3 Where is he staying?
- 4 What are they watching?
- 5 Who is he talking to?
- 6 Are you leaving now?

- A At the Windsor Hotel.
 B Yes, I am.
 C Because she's happy.
 D A horror film.
 E Mr Brown.
 F A letter.

ORAL Activity

Students look at the picture in exercise 5. Each student chooses to be a person. The teacher invites one student to the front of the class. The other students ask "the leader" questions to find out who he/she is. The student who guesses correctly becomes the next leader.

- e.g. S1: Are you washing the car?
 Leader: No, I'm not.
 S2: Are you reading a newspaper?
 Leader: No, I'm not.
 S3: Are you painting the gate?
 Leader: Yes, I am.
 S4: Are you Tom?
 Leader: Yes, I am.

WRITING Activity

Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous.



This is a photo of my mother and our dog, Flash. Mum 1)
 (work) on our boat. She 2)
 (clean) the deck. She 3) (use) a mop and a bucket of water. She 4) (wear) trousers and a sweater. Flash 5) (lie) on the floor. He 6) (look) at my mother.

Now, describe one of your photographs as in the example.

Stick your photo here

This is a photo of

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....