

# Present continuous (I am doing)

A Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work. She's driving to work. (= She is driving ...)

This means: she is driving now, at the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

am/is/are + -ing is the present continuous:

I	am	(= I'm)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he's etc.)	warning
we/you/they	are	(= we're etc.)	doing etc.

**B** I am doing something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying to work. (not I try)

'Where's Mark?' 'He's having a shower.' (not He has a shower)

Let's go out now. It isn't raining any more. (not It doesn't rain)

How's your new job? Are you enjoying it?

What's all that noise? What's going on? or What's happening?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:

**I'm reading** a really good book at the moment. It's about a man who ...

Steve says '**I'm reading** ...' but he is not reading the book at the time of speaking.

He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.

(but perhaps she isn't **learning** Italian at the time of speaking)

Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

**C** You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

a: You're **working** hard **today**. (not You work hard today)

b: The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

**D** We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

**getting, becoming, changing, improving,  
starting, beginning    increasing, rising, falling, growing**

Is your English getting better? (not Does your English get better)  
The population of the world is increasing very fast. (not increases)  
At first I didn't like my job, but I'm starting to enjoy it now. (not I start).

# Present Continuous (Progressive) Tense

Spelling: how to add '-ing' to a verb: 'wait/waiting'

Study:

1- We add **-ing** to most verbs, without changing the base form: *wait/waiting*:

*Wait for me. -•• I am waiting for you.*

2- If a verb ends in -e, **omit the -e** and add *-ing*: *use/using*:

*Use a spoon tea. -•• I am using a spoon tea.*

3- A single **vowel** followed by a single **consonant** **doubles the final consonant**:  
*sit/sitting*:

*Sit down. —+ I am sitting down.*

4- We double the last consonant of **two-syllable verbs** when the second syllable is stressed:

*begin/beginning*. Compare the **unstressed final syllable**: 'differ/'differing:

*Begin work. -•• I am beginning work.*

5- **ic** changes to **-ick**: *picnic/picnicking*, **-ie** changes to **-y**. *lie/lying*:

*Lie down. —+ I am lying down.*

# Add -ing to the verbs in these sentences.

- 1 I'm ..... the beds. (make)
- 2 I'm.....a sandwich. (eat)
- 3 I'm.....a letter. (write)
- 4 I'm always.....things. (forget)
- 5 I'm.....on my coat. (put)
- 6 I'm..... abroad. (travel)
- 7 I'm.....the 9.04. (catch)
- 8 I'm..... of thirst. (die)
- 9 I'm.....your case. (carry)



# Uses of the present progressive tense:

‘I am working/he is working’

Study:

**There are four basic uses of the present progressive tense. We use it for:**

1- Actions in progress at the moment of speaking:

He's working at the moment.

2- Temporary situations/actions, not necessarily in progress at the moment of speaking:

*My daughter is studying English at Durham University.*

3- Planned actions (+ future adverbial reference):

*We're spending next winter in Australia.*

4- Repeated actions with adverbs like *always, forever.*

*She's always helping people.*

## Use the present progressive in the sentences below.

- 1 Don't rush me..... as fast as I can. (I/work)
- 2 What? .....It looks awful. (you/drink)
- 3 .....to see the boss. (She/still wait)
- 4 .....to catch his train. (He/hurry)
- 5 .....more and more politically aware these days. (Young people/become)
- 6 .....our holiday here very much. (We/enjoy)
- 7 .....people by asking personal questions.  
(He/always/upset)
- 8 You can't believe a word he says.....(He/always/lie)
- 9 .....the 1,500 metres in the next Olympics. (She/run)

# Exercises

**1** The sentences on the right follow those on the left . Which sentence goes with which?

<b>1</b> Please don't make so much noise.	<b>a</b> I'm getting hungry.	1	<b>f</b>
<b>2</b> We need to leave soon.	<b>b</b> They're lying.	2	<b>e</b>
<b>3</b> I don't have anywhere to live right now.	<b>c</b> It's starting to rain.	3	<b>g</b>
<b>4</b> I need to eat something soon.	<b>d</b> They're trying to sell it.	4	<b>a</b>
<b>5</b> They don't need their car any more.	<b>e</b> It's getting late.	5	<b>d</b>
<b>6</b> Things are not so good at work.	<b>f</b> I'm trying to work.	6	<b>h</b>
<b>7</b> It isn't true what they say.	<b>g</b> I'm staying with friends.	7	<b>b</b>
<b>8</b> We're going to get wet.	<b>h</b> The company is losing money.	8	<b>c</b>

## **2 Write questions. Use the present continuous.**

**1** What's all that noise? **What's happening?** (what / happen?)

**2** What's the matter? **Why are you crying?** (why / you / cry?)

**3** Where's your mother? **Is she working today?** (she / work / today?)

**4** I haven't seen you for ages. **What are you doing these days?** (what / you / do / these days?)

**5** Amy is a student. **What is she studying?** (what / she / study?)

**6** Who are those people? **What are they doing?** (what / they / do?)

**7** I heard you started a new job. **Are you enjoying it?** (you / enjoy / it?)

**8** We're not in a hurry. **Why are you walking so fast?** (why / you / walk / so fast?)

**3** Put the verb into the correct form, positive (I'm doing etc.) or negative (I'm not doing etc.).

1 Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** (I / try) to work.

2 Let's go out now. **It isn't raining** (it / rain) any more.

3 You can turn off the radio. **I'm not listening to it** (I / listen) to it.

4 Kate phoned last night. She's on holiday with friends. **She is having** (She / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.

5 Andrew started evening classes recently. **He is learning** (He / learn) Japanese.

6 Paul and Sarah have had an argument and now **they are speaking** (they / speak) to one another.

7 The situation is already very bad and now **it is getting** (it / get) worse.

8 Tim **isn't working** (work) today. He's taken the day off .

9 **I'm looking** (I / look) for Sophie. Do you know where she is?

10 The washing machine has been repaired. **It's working** (It / work) now.

11 **They're building** (They / build) a new hospital. It will be finished next year.

12 Ben is a student, but he's not very happy. **He isn't enjoying** (He / enjoy) his course.

13 **The weather's changing** (The weather / change). Look at those clouds.

I think it's going to rain.

14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. **He's starting** (He / start) to get bored with it.

Raymond Murphy, 2019, ENGLISH GRAMMAR IN USE, Fifth edition, Cambridge University Press

L. G Alexander 1998 : Longman English grammar practice (Intermediate level), Eleventh impression, Addison Wesley Longman, New York