

UNIT 5 Lesson 1**The present continuous: spelling rules for the present participle**

The present continuous consists of two parts: a form of be and a present participle of a verb.

To form a present participle, add -ing to the base form of a verb.

base form	present participle
talk	→ talking

If the base form ends in a silent (unvoiced) -e, drop the -e and add -ing.

leave	→ leaving
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In verbs of one syllable, if the last three letters are a consonant-vowel-consonant* sequence, double the last consonant and then add -ing to the base form.

C V C	
s i t	→ sitting

BUT: If the base form of the verb ends in -w, -x, or -y, don't double the final consonant.

blow	→ blowing
fix	→ fixing
say	→ saying

If a base form has more than one syllable and ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant sequence, double the last consonant only if the spoken stress is on the last syllable.

per - mit	→ permit <u>ting</u>	BUT	or - der	→ order <u>ing</u>
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* Vowels = a, e, i, o, u

* Consonants = b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z

The present continuous: rules for forming statements

Remember to form the present continuous with **be** and a present participle of a verb.

Affirmative statements

I'm **studying** English.
You're **studying** French.
He's **reading** a book.
She's **reading** a newspaper.
We're **watching** TV.
They're **watching** a video.

Negative statements

I'm **not studying** French.
You're **not studying** English.
He's **not reading** a newspaper.
She's **not reading** a book.
We're **not watching** a DVD.
They're **not watching** TV.

B On a separate sheet of paper, change each affirmative statement to a negative statement. Use contractions.

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|---|---|
| 1 She's going to the supermarket. | 4 The Roberts are feeding their kids early. |
| 2 He's calling his wife this afternoon. | 5 Joel's taking the bus to the movies. |
| 3 I'm cooking dinner tonight. | 6 We're getting a new printer. |

C Write answers to the questions in complete affirmative or negative statements. Use the present continuous and contractions.

- Are you studying English this weekend?
- When are you taking a vacation?
- Is it raining now?
- Where are you eating dinner tonight?
- Are you listening to music now?
- Who's making breakfast tomorrow?

The present continuous: rules for forming questions

Yes / no questions: Place a form of **be** before the subject of the sentence.

Is she watching TV?	Are we meeting this afternoon?
Are you driving there?	Are they talking on the phone?
Is Stu shopping?	Are Nan and Bert studying?

Information questions: Use question words to ask information questions.

When are you going?	How much are you paying for that computer?
What are you doing right now?	Why are you buying that laptop?
Who is he watching on TV?	

Be careful! The word order changes when using **Who** to ask a question about the subject:

Who's talking on the phone? (John is.)

D Write a question in the present continuous to complete each conversation.

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|--|---|
| 1 A: ?
B: No. Luke's not watching TV right now. | 3 A: ?
B: I'm calling Janet Hammond. |
| 2 A: ?
B: Yes. She's working this morning. | 4 A: ?
B: She's coming home later tonight. |