

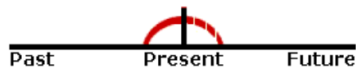
Present Continuous Forms

The present continuous is formed using **am/is/are + present participle**. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and *am/is/are*. Negatives are made with *not*.

- Statement: You **are watching** TV.
- Question: **Are** you **watching** TV?
- Negative: You **are not watching** TV.

Present Continuous Uses

USE 1 Now

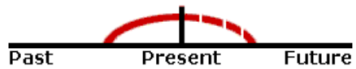


Use the present continuous with [normal verbs](#) to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.

Examples:

- You **are learning** English now.
- You **are not swimming** now.
- **Are** you **sleeping**?
- I **am sitting**.
- I **am not standing**.
- **Is** he **sitting** or **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

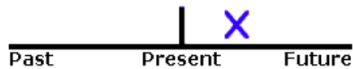


In English, *now* can mean different things: this second, today, this month, this year, this century, and so on. Sometimes, we use the present continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second.

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?