

GRAMMAR

Present continuous for future arrangements

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1012G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can use the present continuous to make a future arrangement.
- I can explain the difference between active and stative verbs and give examples of each.



Warm-up

**Are you an organised person in general?
Do you like to make plans?**



**When was the last time
you made a plan to meet
somebody?
Was it for work or in your
free time?**





Reading

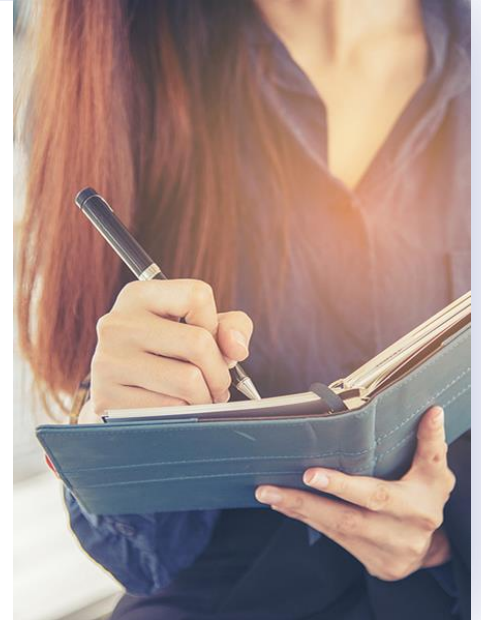
Read the text below and **answer the questions** in the red box.

Amanda: I'm currently reviewing our progress and I see there are a lot of deadlines coming up this month. I think we should touch base at least once a week. Thoughts?

Gabriel: Absolutely. I'm meeting Carlos this Wednesday and I usually check in with my supervisor on Friday mornings. But otherwise, my schedule's flexible on those days. When suits you?

Amanda: Hmm, let me see. I'm giving a presentation tomorrow... and I'm leaving early on Friday for a doctor's appointment. Wednesday afternoon works best for me.

Gabriel: Perfect. I can do Wednesday at half past three.



1. Where is this conversation taking place? How do Gabriel and Amanda know each other?
2. Why can't Amanda meet on Friday?
3. What day do they decide to meet?



We should **touch base**
at least once a week.
Thoughts?

Absolutely.

_____ = give updates
_____ = What do you think?
_____ = Yes, I agree.

Present simple and present continuous

Read the **sentences** below, which are taken from the dialogue on slide 4. **Answer the questions** in the blue box.

I'm meeting Carlos this Wednesday.

I'm currently reviewing our progress.

I meet my supervisor on Friday mornings.

- Which sentence refers to something that **is happening now**?
- Which sentence refers to something that **happens regularly**?
- Find the sentence that refers to a **future plan**.
- Identify the words and phrases, other than verbs, that indicate **time**.

Arranging to meet

Read this excerpt from the dialogue between Amanda and Gabriel and **answer the questions** in the blue box.



I'm leaving early on Friday for a doctor's appointment. Wednesday works for me.



Perfect. I can do Wednesday at half past three.

- What **phrases** do Amanda and Gabriel use **to agree on a time and date**?
- Which sentence refers to a **fixed future plan**?

Present continuous to talk about the future

Complete the rule. Write your own plan or arrangement using the present continuous.

He **is attending** an important conference in Dubai next Saturday.

I**m** not **visiting** my grandparents this Thursday evening, so I'm free.

They **aren't taking** the train tomorrow because it's too expensive.

Forming the present continuous

Auxiliary



Verb + *ing*



Future time
phrase



Practise pronouncing *is and -ing*

Practise pronouncing the /ɪz/ and /ɪŋ/ sounds.

For /ɪŋ/ the **back of the tongue** should touch the **roof of the mouth**. Notice the **nasal** sound.

1

He **is**
think**ing**

/ɪz/ /ɪŋ/

2

She **is** in a
meet**ing**

/ɪz/ /ɪŋ/

3

It **is** com**ing**
up

/ɪz/ /ɪŋ/

4

Michel **is**
sign**ing** in

/ɪz/ /ɪŋ/

5

Samira **is**
talk**ing**

/ɪz/ /ɪŋ/



Present simple or continuous?

Create sentences using the words below. Share your sentences with the class and explain why you used a present simple or a present continuous. If your sentence used a present continuous, is the action happening now or in the future?

1 He – meet – old friend – at the moment

2 I – walk – park – sometimes – at night

3 We – not – go – concert – this weekend

4 Maria – see – therapist – on Fridays



Talk about your schedule

1. **Talk about** your schedule. What do you do every week? What are you doing this week?
2. **Ask each other questions:** find out more about something a classmate is doing this week.

Option: Use **breakout rooms** and share what you learned about your partner afterwards!



On Fridays, I go...

This Friday, I'm going....

- On Monday
- Every Friday
- Most Saturdays
- Some Sundays
- This Tuesday
- On Wednesdays
- Next Thursday



Active and stative verbs

Read the sentences below and **answer the questions** in the blue box.

My friend **is organising** a surprise birthday party for her boyfriend.
I'm **going** to my holiday home by the beach next weekend.

We got new equipment for the office, but I **prefer** the old chairs.
I **want** to get better at English.

- The sentences above contain examples of **active** and **stative** verbs. Can you identify them?

_____ verbs describe an action.

_____ verbs describe a state.

- What do you notice about the stative verbs? What tense are they in?
- We don't usually use _____ verbs in the present continuous.



Comparing active and stative verbs

Label the two lists below as either **active** or **stative verbs**. Which type of verb do we **not** usually use with the present continuous?

_____	_____
plan	need
schedule	be
arrange	know
organise	want
call	remember
meet	prefer

Verbs that can be either active or stative

Do you **have** a car?

What **are** you **having** for lunch today?

He **thinks** the Earth is flat.

Leave me alone, I'm **thinking**!

- Depending on the **context**, some verbs can be either **active** or **stative**.
- Which sentences involve an **activity**? Which sentences describe a **state**?
- What does **having** mean in the second sentence? Use another verb.





Is it active or stative?

1 He **has** a company car.

a. active

b. stative

2 They **are having** a meeting next week.

a. active

b. stative

3 They **prefer** video calls to meeting in person.

a. active

b. stative

Are you available to meet?

Arrange to meet one of your classmates for lunch during the week. Try to find a time that works for each of you, using the **present continuous** and the vocabulary you have learnt in the lesson. Feel free to use your own schedule for this activity!



Student 1: schedule

Monday: free

Wednesday: at a conference

***Student 1:** Hey, let's meet soon for lunch!
Are you free on...?*




Student 2: schedule

Monday @ 2PM: appointment

Thurs – Fri: too busy with work

***Student 2:** No, that doesn't work for me...*

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • How about? | flexible |
| • ... works | • I can do |
| (best/better) | • I can't do |
| • My schedule's | • available |



End of the lesson

Idiom

having a hard time

Meaning: to say that you are *having a hard time* doing something means that it is a difficult task or there is something preventing you from doing it.



Additional practice



Make complete sentences

Use the words given to make a complete sentence in the present continuous. Which sentence refers to an action happening now?

1 She – meet – team – next week



2 They – use – meeting room – afternoon



3 We – have lunch – right after – conference call

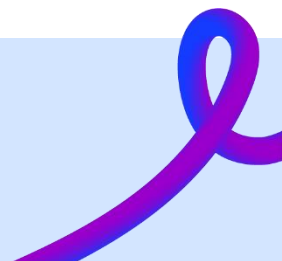


4 He – schedule – call – for tomorrow



5 I – plan – company retreat – this year



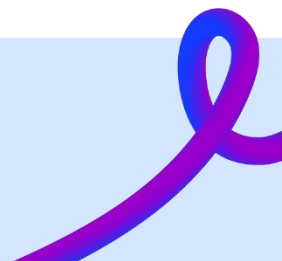




Fill in the gaps

Use the word(s) in brackets to complete the sentence. Think about the **context** and whether the verb is **active** or **stative**. Decide whether it should be in the present **simple** or **continuous**.

- 1 Lucy _____ (**feel**) they should meet more often, but her friend _____ (**feel**) overworked at the moment and _____ (**not/have**) time.
- 2 _____ (**you/see**) that building over there? That's the apartment I _____ (**think**) of buying.
- 3 He _____ (**know**) her from the office. They _____ (**currently, work**) on a project together and _____ (**represent**) the company at a conference next week.
- 4 The company _____ (**want**) to give their employees a bonus to show their appreciation. They _____ (**announce**) it next month.





Choose the correct time phrase



1 Are you going to the Wilson's party _____?

a. on Saturday

b. at Saturday

c. yesterday

d. week

2 I run in the park _____ because there are fewer people there.

a. this week

b. tomorrow

c. next week

d. at night

3 I need an answer on this by the end of _____ because I'm speaking to the team in the morning.

a. today

b. tomorrow

c. the week

d. the month

4 What's your schedule like _____?

a. the week

b. this week

c. afternoon

d. the afternoon



Build sentences

Use a **question prompt** in box 1 and a **time reference** in box 2. Remember to add the correct preposition or article in front of the time reference where necessary.

Can you do Saturday?

Does this weekend work for you?



Question prompt

- Can you do...?
- Are you available...?
- How about...?
- What's your schedule like...?
- Does ... work for you?
- Do ... work for you?
- Are you free...?

Time

- Mondays
- Monday
- week
- weekend
- month
- Saturday
- tonight
- evening
- weekdays
- tomorrow afternoon



What does it mean?

Write a definition for these real-life phrases.

1 Thoughts?



2 Absolutely!



3 We should touch base.

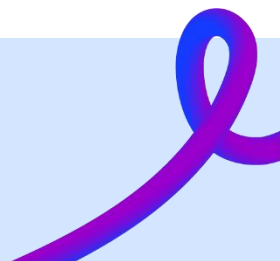


4 We should plan deliverables.



5 We need to organise our workflow.







Using stative verbs in the present continuous

Look at the sets of statements below. Which statement uses the verb as an active verb? How can you tell? Share your thoughts with your teacher and classmates.

1

- a. We have weekly video calls.
- b. We are having a meeting now.

2

- a. I am seeing the client this afternoon.
- b. I see that the client called.

3

- a. The presentation looks good.
- b. The client is looking at it.

4

- a. She is thinking about what they must do.
- b. She thinks her team should meet soon.

5

- a. The team is feeling overworked this week.
- b. They feel that virtual meetings are difficult.

Active

Stative



Dialogue

Imagine you and your colleague are planning the annual staff party. You need to have one final meeting to go over the details. Use the phrases you practised in the last two activities to find a time and date that works.



We need to touch base to confirm the numbers for the party. Let's meet this week.

Absolutely. How about...?







Talking about plans



Do you make time to meet with friends during the week?

When was the last time you made a plan to meet someone?

Are you doing anything this weekend?

Are you going on holidays this year?



Answer key

P.4

1. Possible answers: The conversation is taking place at work/at the office. Carlos and Amanda are colleagues/Carlos and Amanda work together/ Carlos and Amanda know each other from work.
2. Because she already has plans/arrangements (an appointment)
3. They decide to meet on Wednesday.

P.5

Touch base = give update; Thoughts? = What's your opinion? Absolutely = Yes, I agree

P.6

Happening now: I'm currently reviewing our progress

Happens regularly: I meet my supervisor on Friday mornings

Future plans: I'm meeting Carlos this Wednesday

Words and phrases that indicate time: currently, on Wednesday, on Friday mornings

P.7

... works for me, I can do

I'm leaving early on Friday



Answer key

P.10

1. He's meeting an old friend at the moment (PC, happening now)
2. I sometimes walk in the park at night (PS, routine/habit)
3. We aren't going to the concert this weekend (PC, future arrangement)
4. Maria is seeing her therapist on Friday (PC, future arrangement) / Maria sees her therapist on Friday (PS, routine)

P.12

1. Active verbs describe an action; Stative verbs describe a state
2. Present simple
3. Stative verbs

P.13

First column: Active verbs

Second column: Stative verbs

We don't usually use stative verbs in the present continuous, unless referring to an action.

eg: ~~I'm knowing~~ a lot about history – I know a lot about history BUT I'm seeing my friend this weekend



Answer key

P.14

Active

Examples 1 + 3 = state; examples 2 + 4 = action

having: eating

P.15

1. b) 2. a) 3. b)

Additional practice

P.20

She is meeting the team next week

They are using the meeting room this afternoon

We are having lunch right after the call

He is scheduling the call for tomorrow* (happening now)

I'm planning the company retreat this year

P. 21

1. feels, is feeling, doesn't have 2. Do you see, I'm thinking 3. knows, are currently working, are representing 4. wants, are announcing

P.22

1. a) 2. d) 3. a) 4. b)

P.25: Active: 1. b 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. a Stative: 1. a 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. b



Summary

Future arrangements

- We use the present continuous to talk about what we are doing in the future, for example, when we are **meeting somebody** or **have an appointment**, or a **planned event**. This is often at a specific time; it has been arranged in advance.

Present continuous: form

- Use **is/are + verb(-ing)**

Active and stative verbs

- Active verbs describe an activity: She's **walking** to the shops
- Stative verbs describe a state: I **love** hot chocolate

Stative verbs and the present continuous

- Stative verbs are only used in the present continuous when we are describing an activity.
- I **see** a bird through the window (stative – this refers to my perception of the bird)
- I **am seeing** my friend on Friday (active – this refers to the activity of meeting my friend).



Vocabulary

deadline

to schedule

We should touch base

Thoughts?

Absolutely!

I can do...

... works (best) for me

to plan

to arrange

to remember

to know

to prefer

flexible

to organise

upcoming

this month, this week(end)



Notes

