

GRAMMAR

# The present continuous: part I

**LEVEL**

Beginner

**NUMBER**

EN\_A1\_1113G

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Learning outcomes

- I can form the present continuous correctly.
- I can determine in which context to use the present continuous.



**We are speaking** English and **you are learning** about the present tense!





# Present continuous in the singular

- The present continuous = **to be** + verb ending in **-ing**.
- Only the form of the verb **to be** changes.

Personal Pronoun	to be	verb + -ing
I	am	reading
you	are	reading
he	is	reading
she	is	reading
it	is	reading



# Present continuous in the plural

- Below are examples of the present continuous in the **plural**.
- The verb form is the same for any plural pronoun.

Personal Pronoun	to be	verb + ing
we	are	go <b>ing</b>
you (plural)	are	go <b>ing</b>
they	are	go <b>ing</b>



# Present continuous or present simple?

		PRESENT CONTINUOUS	PRESENT SIMPLE
1	I am going to school today.		
2	You eat fruit for breakfast.		
3	I love to play football.		
4	They are eating vegetables.		
5	He is reading a book.		



# Match the pronoun to the correct verb

**1** I...

**2** She...

**3** We...

**a** are reading.

**b** am writing.

**c** is going.



# Finish the sentence

**1** I ...

**2** He...

**3** You...

**4** They are...

**a** are reading a book.

**b** eating cookies.

**c** is speaking English.

**d** am drinking coffee.





# Two present tenses

- Now you know two present tenses: the **present simple** and the **present continuous**.
- We use the present continuous to talk about things that are happening right now.

Present Simple	Present Continuous
I <b>eat</b> .	I <b>am eating</b> .
You <b>walk</b> .	You <b>are walking</b> .
He <b>drives</b> a car.	He <b>is driving</b> a car.



# Negative present continuous

- To make the present continuous negative, add **not** after the verb *to be*.

Positive	Negative
I am walking.	I am <b>not</b> walking.
She is reading a book.	She is <b>not</b> reading a book.
They are learning.	They are <b>not</b> learning.



# Spoken English



She's eating a salad.

He isn't walking to work. He's driving.

In spoken English, we usually use **contractions**.

Can you say the sentences above using the full words?

# What is the family doing?

1 They \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.

2 Lots of \_\_\_\_\_ is on the table.

3 They are \_\_\_\_\_ around the table.

4 The little boy \_\_\_\_\_.

food  
are eating  
is smiling  
sitting



# Match the sentence to the picture

1



2



3



4



**a** They are talking.

**b** She is smiling.

**c** It is raining.

**d** They are watching TV.



# Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite the sentences using the present continuous.

You can do this activity **in breakout rooms**. Check your answers with the teacher afterwards.

1 I read a good book.



**I am reading** a good book.

2 They cook dinner.



3 It rains.



4 They eat.





# Describe what is happening in the picture

Make sentences using the present continuous.







# Describe what is happening in the picture

What is he doing? What is she doing?







# Describe what is happening in the picture

What are they doing?



# Describe what is happening in the picture

Are they eating? Is someone drinking? What are they doing?





# Describe what is happening in the picture

What are they drinking?







# Speaking practice

**Describe three things you are doing right now using the present continuous!**



**Ex.**

I am reading...



# End of the lesson

Idiom

***To eat your words***

**Meaning:** to admit that you are wrong about something

**Example:** She had to eat her words when I passed the exam.



# Additional practice



# Match the sentences



**1** I eat fruit...

**2** I am reading...

**3** You are...

**4** They...

**5** He...

**6** I...

**7** It...

**a** am drinking tea.

**b** a book about dogs.

**c** every day.

**d** learning French.

**e** are speaking the same language.

**f** is shopping for vegetables.

**g** is raining today.







# Find the verbs

**Find the verbs in this lesson and write them down.  
Which are new? Do you know all of them?  
Look these words up.**

Verbs

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# Texting

Fill in the gaps with the verbs in the present continuous. Don't forget to use the correct form of **to be**.

When you are done, write your own conversation between you and a friend.

10:37

Tom

Hi Jenny. What \_\_\_\_\_  
you \_\_\_\_\_ (do)?

Jenny

I \_\_\_\_\_ (work). And  
you?

Tom

I am with Ali. We \_\_\_\_\_  
(play) a boardgame.

Jenny

Nice! Simon \_\_\_\_\_  
(play) cards right now!



# What are they doing?

**Think about four of your friends or people in your family. What are they doing right now?**





# Answer key

**P.6:** Present continuous: 1, 4, 6 Present simple: 2, 3

**P.7:** I am writing; We are reading; She is going

**P.8:** 1. d 2. c 3. a 4. b

**P.11:** She is eating... He is not walking... He is driving

**P.12:** 1. are eating 2. food 3. sitting 4. is smiling

**P.13:** 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. d

**P.14:** 1. I am reading... 2. They are cooking... 3. It is raining... 4. They are eating...



# Answer key

## P.24

I eat fruit every day.

I am reading a book about dogs.

You are learning French.

They are speaking the same language.

He is shopping for vegetables.

I am drinking tea.

It is raining today.

## P.26

Hi Jenny. What are you doing?

I am working. And you?

I am with Ali. We are playing a boardgame.

Nice! Simon is playing cards right now!



# Summary

## Present continuous with singular and plural subjects:

- The present continuous is a combination of **to be** and another **verb** + ing
- Only the form of the verb **to be** changes.
- *I am reading, he is reading, we are reading, they are reading*

## Use and negative of the present continuous:

- We use the **present continuous** to talk about things that are happening right now
- To make the present continuous negative, add **not** after the verb **to be**.
- *I am not reading, we are not reading*

## New verbs:

- *to read, to learn, to speak, to smile, to sit*



# Vocabulary

to speak

to learn

to read

to smile

to sit

