

Present Continuous

Use the present continuous (also called present progressive) to talk about an action that is or is not happening now. We often use the time expressions *now*, *right now*, and *at the moment* with the present continuous.

- Mr Krabs is talking to Sponge Bob.
- Mr Krabs is not talking to Sponge Bob at the moment.

To form the present continuous, you use *be + verb in base form + -ing*.

- Mr Krabs **is screaming** at Plankton.
- Sponge Bob **is worrying** about the secret formula.

If a verb ends in a silent **e**, drop the final e and add **-ing**:

- Smile – Smiling

If a one-syllable verb ends in a consonant, a vowel, and a consonant (**CVC**), double the last consonant before adding **-ing**. However, do not double the last consonant if it is a **w**, **x**, or **y**.

- Sit – Sitting
- Run – Running
- Sew – Sewing
- Play – Playing

We don't usually use non-action verbs in the present continuous.

- Not: The Krabby Patty ~~is costing~~ \$6.

Use contractions in speaking and informal writing.

- Squidward isn't trying to help.
- The customers aren't enjoying their meals.

We sometimes use the present continuous for an action that is taking place at this time but may not be happening at this moment. We often use the time expressions *these days*, *this year*, and *nowadays* with the present continuous.

- This year people are buying more Krabby Patties.
- Nowadays customers are looking for the best restaurant in the Seven Seas.