



Present continuous: affirmative and negative

Affirmative	Negative
I'm studying. You're studying.	I'm not studying. You aren't studying.
He's studying. She's studying. It's studying.	He isn't studying. She isn't studying. It isn't studying.
We're studying. You're studying. They're studying.	We aren't studying. You aren't studying. They aren't studying.

We make the affirmative form of the present continuous with the verb *be* and the *-ing* form of the verb.

I'm looking at my English dictionary.
Fatma is speaking to the teacher.
We're learning about life in Thailand.
You're doing a difficult science question.

To make the negative form, use the verb *be* plus *not* and the *-ing* form of the verb.

In spoken or informal written English, we use short forms in both the affirmative and the negative.

I'm reading the notes.
He isn't listening to his friend.
They aren't doing their homework.

Spelling Rules

With the majority of verbs: add *-ing*.

watch → watching check → checking
 play → playing eat → eating

With verbs that end in *-e*: remove *-e* and add *-ing*.

revise → revising have → having
 move → moving make → making

With verbs that end in vowel + single consonant:

double the consonant and add *-ing*.
 sit → sitting swim → swimming
 run → running get up → getting up

Present continuous: questions

Questions	Short answers	
	Affirmative	Negative
Am I listening?	Yes, I am.	No, I'm not.
Are you listening?	Yes, you are.	No, you aren't.
Is he listening?	Yes, he is.	No, he isn't.
Is she listening?	Yes, she is.	No, she isn't.
Is it listening?	Yes, it is.	No, it isn't.
Are we listening?	Yes, we are.	No, we aren't.
Are you listening?	Yes, you are.	No, you aren't.
Are they listening?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

To make the question form, invert the verb *be* and the *-ing* form.

Am I sitting here?
Is Alex playing football?
Are you checking the answer to that question?
What are we studying?
Where are those students going?

We make short answers with the verb *be* only, without the *-ing* form.

Are you learning Japanese? No, I'm not.
Is Selin doing an exam? Yes, she is.
Are they finishing their homework? No, they aren't.

Present continuous and present simple

Usage

We use the present continuous to talk about actions in progress. We often use it with words and phrases like *at the moment*, *now* or *today*.

Our teacher is speaking English now.
They're watching a video in class today.
Pavel and Tomas aren't concentrating at the moment.
Are we making notes from this book now?

We use the present simple to talk about routines or repeated actions. We often use it with words and phrases like *always*, *usually*, *normally*, *often*, *sometimes*, *never*, *every day* or *every Friday*.

He gets the bus to school every day.
I always get up at 7.00.
They don't usually help with the housework.
Do you play football every Saturday?

Note that there are some verbs (stative verbs) which we don't usually use in the continuous form. These include: *understand*, *know*, *think*, *like*, *love*, *hate* and *want*.

I like history and art. NOT ~~*I'm liking history and art.*~~
I know the answer. NOT ~~*I'm knowing the answer.*~~