



Present continuous: affirmative and negative

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

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

We make the negative form with the verb *be* plus *not* and the *-ing* form of the main verb.

In spoken and informal written English, we use short forms.

I am writing. → I'm writing.

He isn't talking.

Present continuous: questions

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

We make the question form by inverting the verb *be* and the subject.

We make short answers with the verb *be* without the *-ing* form of the main verb.

We don't use short forms in affirmative short answers.

'Are you studying?' 'Yes, I am.' ~~'Yes, I'm.'~~

'Is Selin watching TV?' 'Yes, she is.' ~~'Yes, she's.'~~

'Are we doing this exercise?' 'Yes, we are.' ~~'Yes, we're.'~~

Question words go before the verb *be*.

What are you talking about?

Who are you messaging?

Why are they laughing?

Where's Lenka going?

Present simple and present continuous

Usage

We use the present continuous to talk about an action in progress. We use it for things which are happening now or around now. We often use time expressions like *now*, *right now* or *at the moment* with the present continuous.

'Is Alicia doing her homework now?' 'Yes, she is.'

'Where's Osman right now?' 'He's chatting online.'

They're studying for their history exam at the moment.

We use the present simple to talk about routine or repeated actions. We often use adverbs of frequency like *always*, *usually*, *often*, *sometimes* or *never* with the present simple.

Do you often post messages on social media?

She always watches that TV programme.

Ollie sometimes uses instant messaging.

I never send emails.

There are some verbs (stative verbs) which we don't normally use in the continuous form because they describe states which are true, not actions in progress. These include: *understand*, *know*, *believe*, *think*, *mean*, *like*, *dislike*, *love*, *hate*, *want* and *prefer*.

~~We don't understand this question.~~

~~We aren't understanding this question.~~

What does that word mean?

~~What is that word meaning?~~

I like your new mobile phone.

~~I'm liking your new mobile phone.~~

Do you want a coffee?

~~Are you wanting a coffee?~~