



GRAMMAR

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

1. HOW DO WE FORM THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS?

The verb *To be* (in the simple present) + Verb -ing

The affirmative form

I	am	eating
	'm	
He, she, it	is	
	's	
You, we, you, they	are	
	're	

Examples:

- I am writing a letter right now
- He is cleaning his flat

The interrogative form

Am	I	eating?
Are	you, we, you, they	
Is	he, she, it	

Examples:

- What are you drinking?
- Are you reading any book at the moment? Yes, I am (short answer)/ Yes, I am reading a book **or** No, I'm not (short answer)/ No, I'm not reading any book

The negative form

I	am not	eating
	'm not	
He, she, it	is not	
	isn't	
You, we, you, they	are not	
	aren't	

2. IN WHICH CASES DO WE USE THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS?



The present continuous is used in the following cases:

- To talk about actions happening at the time of speaking: Where is Mary? She **is having** a bath/ What **are you doing** at the moment in front of your screen? You **are reading** this lesson. You **are learning** English.
- When an action has started but hasn't finished yet: I **am reading** a book; it's a nice book. (It means = I am not necessarily reading it; I started reading it but I haven't finished it yet).

3. SPECIAL VERBS!

There are verbs which are normally not used in the present continuous:

Be (ser, estar), *believe* (creer), *belong* (pertenecer), *hate* (odiar), *hear* (oír), *like* (gustar), *love* (amar; encantar), *mean* (significar), *prefer* (preferir), *remain* (permanecer), *realize* (darse cuenta), *see* (ver), *seem* (parecer), *smell* (oler), *think* (pensar), *understand* (comprender), *want* (querer) and *wish* (desear).

It is not correct to say:

He is wanting to buy a new car.*

You must say:

He wants to buy a new car.

WORKSHEET

1. Put the verbs into the present continuous tense in its affirmative, negative or interrogative form.

- Listen to the birds. They (sing)
- Look at that one. It (fly) high in the sky.
- The other one (play) with a worm.
- I feel happy because I (have) a good time here.
- Look! Mary (jump) into the water.
- You can't find Jerry at home right now. He (study) in the library.
- Eddie (not, write) a novel. He (write) a poem.
- Uncle Terry and his friend (fish) at the lake today. They (not, fish) at the beach.
- What (you/ do) right now?. I (write) a letter.
- (she/ drink) a glass of orange juice? No, she (not/ drink) a glass of orange juice. She (have) a cup of tea.

2. Put the verbs into the correct tense in this dialogue: present simple or present continuous.

Ann: Look! Sara (go) to the movies.
Aaron: On her right hand, Sara (carry) her handbag.
Ann: The handbag (be) very beautiful.
Aaron: Sara usually (put) on black shoe but now she (wear) white trainers.
Ann: And look, she (take)..... an umbrella.