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Present continuous (I am doing)

Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work. She's driving to work. (= She is driving ...)

This means: she is driving now, at the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

am/is/are + -ing is the present continuous:

| | am | (= 'm) | driving |
|-------------|------|------------------------|------------|
| he/she/i | t is | (= he 's etc.) | working |
| we/you/they | are | (= we 're etc.) | doing etc. |



I am doing something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying to work. (not I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He's having a shower.' (not He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? Are you enjoying it?
- What's all that noise? What's going on? or What's happening?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm reading a really good book at the moment. It's about a man who ...

> Steve says 'I'm reading ...' but he is not reading the book at the time of speaking.

He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian. (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- O Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

You can use the present continuous with today / this week / this year etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're working hard today. (not You work hard today)
 - B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for isn't doing so well this year.

We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

getting, becoming starting, beginning changing, improving increasing, rising, falling, growing

- Is your English getting better? (not Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm starting to enjoy it now. (not I start)

1.1 What's happening in the pictures? Choose from these verbs:

cross hide scratch take tie wave



| 1 | She's taking a picture. | 4 | his head. |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| 2 | Hea shoelace. | 5 | behind a tree. |
| 3 | the road. | 6 | to somebody. |

1.2 The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

- 1 Please don't make so much noise.
- 2 We need to leave soon.
- 3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.
- 4 I need to eat something soon.
- 5 They don't need their car any more.
- 6 Things are not so good at work.
- 7 It isn't true what they say.
- 8 We're going to get wet.

- a I'm getting hungry.
- b They're lying.
- c It's starting to rain.
- d They're trying to sell it.
- e It's getting late.
- f I'm trying to work.
- g I'm staying with friends.
- h The company is losing money.
- 4
- 6
- 7
- 8

1.3 Write questions. Use the present continuous.

| 1 | What's all that noise? What's happening? | (what / happen?) |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 2 | What's the matter? | (why/you/cry?) |
| 3 | Where's your mother? | (she / work / today?) |
| 4 | I haven't seen you for ages. | (what / you / do / these days?) |
| 5 | Amy is a student. | (what / she / study?) |
| 6 | Who are those people? | (what / they / do?) |
| 7 | I heard you started a new job. | (you / enjoy / it?) |
| 8 | We're not in a hurry. | (why / you / walk / so fast?) |

Put the verb into the correct form, positive (I'm doing etc.) or negative (I'm not doing etc.).

- 1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
- 2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) any more.
- 3 You can turn off the radio.(I / listen) to it.
- 4 Kate phoned last night. She's on holiday with friends. (She / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.

- The washing machine has been repaired. (It / work) now.(It / work) now.(They / build) a new hospital. It will be finished next year.
- 12 Ben is a student, but he's not very happy. (He / enjoy) his course.
- 14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. (He / start) to get bored with it.

Present simple (I do)

A Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep. He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He drives a bus. He is a bus driver.

drive(s), work(s), do(es) etc. is the present simple:

I/we/you/they drive/work/do etc.
he/she/it drives/works/does etc.

| В | time or r | the present simp repeatedly, or that Nurses look aft I usually go awa The earth goes The cafe opens | it something is er patients in h by at weekends round the sun | ospitals. S. | We use it to | say that | something h | appens all the |
|--|-----------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | the | ork but y teach but ling (-s or -es), s | he works my sister tea ee Appendix 6 | aches | ou go bu n ave bu | | | |
| C | We use c | do/does to make | e questions an | d negative sentence | es: | | | |
| TV to Vibraly Speciment of Landbound | do does | I/we/you/they he/she/it | work? drive? do? | I/we/you/they he/she/it | don't doesn't | work drive do | | |
| | | I don't go away | very often. word mean ? | lo you come from? (not What means thates. | | | | |
| | In the fo | 'What do you d | o?' 'I work in | e main verb (do you a shop.' ''t do anything to h | | n't do eto | | |
| D | We use t | I get up at 8 o'c How often do Julie doesn't d | lock every mo you go to the o rink tea very | dentist? | year. | | | |
| E | Sometin | say 'I promise . I promise wo | by saying som '; when you s n't be late. (n | nething. For examp suggest something, not I'm promising) ' I suggest that yo | you can sa | | | ething, |

In the same way we say: I apologise ... / I advise ... / I insist ... / I agree ... / I refuse ... etc.

Exercises

| cause(s) | close(s) | connect(s) | go(es) | live | (s) - | speak(s) | take(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---------|---------------------|------------|---|
| 1 Tanya | peaks Ger | man very well. | | 5 | My pare | nts | in a very |
| | | to the sa | ame | | flat. | | , |
| school. | | | | 6 | The Oly | mnic Gan | nes |
| 3 Bad drivi | าฮ | many acci | dents | | - | our years. | |
| | | at 4 o'clo | | 7 | | | alt |
| Sundays. | | ac rock | JCK OII | | | | ic oceans. |
| Put the ver | | errect form | | | | | , |
| | | (not / drink) tea | a vory often | | | | |
| | | (IIOt / GIIIIK) tea | | | c / closo | horo? | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1 Mbara | ar, Dut r | | 78.4 | (IIC |) (use) i | t much. | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | What | | | | | |
| 7 David isn' | t very fit. He | | *************************************** | | (not / | do) any sp | ort. |
| 8 It | *************************************** | | (take) me ai | n hour | to get to | work in th | e morning. How lor |
| | | (it | / take) you | ? | | | |
| Complete tl | ne sentence: | s using these ver | bs. Somet | imes v | ou need | the nega | tive. |
| believe | | | | nake | rise | tell | translate |
| 1 Tho parth | goes rou | | | 7 | An inter | nreter | |
| | | in cold climates. | | | | | e into another. |
| | | in cold climates. in th | a coot | Q | | 0 0 | /ho |
| | | | ie east. | 0 | the truth | | /110 |
| | | honey. | | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 6 An atheist | | in | God. | | into the | Atlantic C | cean. |
| You ask Lisa | questions a | about herself and | d her family | y. Writ | e the qu | estions. | |
| 1 You know | that Lisa pla | ys tennis. You wa | nt to know | how of | ten. Ask | her. | |
| How ofter | 1 do you p | lay tennis ? | | | | | |
| 2 Perhaps L | isa's sister pl | ays tennis too. Yo | u want to k | now. A | sk Lisa. | | |
| | | sister | | | | | |
| | | es to the cinema a | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 4 You know | that Lisa's br | other works. You | want to kn | ow wha | at he doe | s. Ask Lis | a. |
| | | 1: | | | | | |
| F Va. 2 | anne mile ette e | | nish yoli w | ant to | know. A | sk her. | |
| 5 You're not | sure whethe | er Lisa speaks spa | | | | | |
| | *************************************** | | *************************************** | | o know. | Ask Lisa. | |
| | *************************************** | Lisa's grandparer | *************************************** | | o know. | Ask Lisa. | |
| 6 You don't | know where | Lisa's grandparer | *************************************** | | o know. | Ask Lisa. | |
| 6 You don't Complete us | know where | Lisa's grandparen | ts live. You | want to | | | |
| 6 You don't | know where | Lisa's grandparen | *************************************** | want to | comme | | suggest |
| 6 You don't Complete us I agree 1 Mr Evans i | know where sing the follo I apologise s not in the o | Lisa's grandparen owing: linsist office today. | ts live. You I promise uggest yo | want to | comme | nd 1: | |
| 6 You don't Complete us I agree 1 Mr Evans i | know where sing the follo I apologise s not in the o | Lisa's grandparen owing: I insist | ts live. You I promise uggest yo | want to | comme | nd 1: | |
| 6 You don't Complete us I agree 1 Mr Evans i 2 I won't tel | know where sing the follo I apologise s not in the o | Lisa's grandparen owing: linsist office today. | ts live. You I promise uggest yo | want to | comme alling hir | nd +: | |

Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

| Compare: | |
|---|--|
| present continuous (I am doing) We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking. | present simple (I do) We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly. |
| The action is not complete. | I do |
| past now future | past now future |
| The water is boiling. Be careful. Listen to those people. What language are they speaking? Let's go out. It isn't raining now. 'I'm busy.' 'What are you doing?' I'm getting hungry. Let's go and eat. Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian. The population of the world is increasing very fast. | Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. Excuse me, do you speak English? It doesn't rain very much in summer. What do you usually do at weekends? I always get hungry in the afternoon. Most people learn to swim when they are children. Every day the population of the world increases by about 200,000 people. |
| We use the continuous for <i>temporary</i> situations (things that continue for a short time): I'm living with some friends until I find a place of my own. A: You're working hard today. B: Yes, I have a lot to do. | We use the simple for <i>permanent</i> situations (things that continue for a long time): My parents live in London. They have lived there all their lives. Joe isn't lazy. He works hard most of the time. |

I always do and I'm always doing

See Unit 1 for more information.

I always do something = I do it every time:

☐ I always go to work by car. (not I'm always going)

I'm always doing something = I do it too often or more often than normal. For example:



I'm always losing them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

See Unit 2 for more information.

Paul is never satisfied. He's always complaining. (= he complains too much) You're always looking at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

Exercises

| 3.1 | Are the <u>underlined</u> v | verbs OK? Correct them where ne | cessary. |
|--|-----------------------------|---|---|
| | 1 Water <u>boils</u> at 100 | degrees Celsius. | OK |
| | | going to the cinema? | do you go |
| | 3 Ben tries to find a j | job, but he hasn't had any luck yet. | |
| | 4 Martina is phoning | gher mother every day. | |
| | 5 The moon goes ro | und the earth in about 27 days. | in 1 |
| | | e people? What <u>do they talk</u> about? | |
| | 7 What <u>do you do</u> in | | |
| | | an. She <u>doesn't eat</u> meat. | |
| | 9 I must go now. It g | | The man and a late |
| | | e to leave.' 'OK, I <u>come</u> .' | 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 |
| | | He's always starting work on time. | (20) (III) |
| | 12 They don't get on v | well. They're always arguing. | |
| 3.2 | Put the verb into the | e correct form, present continuous | s or present simple. |
| | | (I / usually / get) hungry in the afte | |
| | b I'm getting | (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat som | nething. |
| | 2 a ' | (you / listen) t | to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.' |
| | b ' | (you / listen) t | to the radio a lot?' 'No, not very often.' |
| | 3 a The River Nile | (flow) i | nto the Mediterranean. |
| | b The river | (flow) very fa | ast today – much faster than usual. |
| | | ve(I | |
| | b What | (you / us | ually / do) at weekends? |
| | 5 a Rachelis in New | York right now. | (She / stay) at the Park Hotel. |
| | b | (She / always / | stay) there when she's in New York. |
| 3.3 | Put the verb into the | correct form, present continuous | s or present simple |
| | | eople here? What's happening | |
| | | | |
| | 3 Are you ready yet? | guages. | (Everybody / wait) for you |
| | 4 I've never heard thi | s word How | (Lverybody / Wait) for you. |
| | 5 Kate | (not / work) | this week Sho's on holiday |
| | | (impre | |
| | 7 Nicola | (live) in Manches | iter. She has never lived anywhere else. |
| | 8 Can we stop walkin | ig soon? | (1 / start) to get tired |
| | 9 Sam and Tina are in | n Madrid right now | (7) starty to get thed. (They / visit) a friend of theirs. |
| 1 | .0 'What | (your father | r/do)?' 'He's an architect' |
| | 1 It took me an hour | to get to work this morning. Most da | avs |
| | (it / not / take) so lo | ong. | |
| 1 | | (I / learn) to drive. My d | riving test is next month. My father |
| | | (teach) me. | g |
| | Finish Di | Manager and American | |
| DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF T | Finish B's sentences. | | |
| | 1 A: I've lost my keys | | |
| | 2 A: The car has broke | en down again. | |
| | | | |
| | 3 A: Look! You've ma | de the same mistake again. | |
| | B: Oh no, not again! | ! | |
| | 4 a: Oh, I've left my pl | none at home again | |
| | | | |

Unit 4

Present continuous and present simple 2 (I am doing and I do)

| | (I am doing and I do) |
|------|---|
| Α | We use continuous forms (I'm waiting, it's raining etc.) for actions and happenings that have started but not finished. Some verbs (for example, know and like) are not normally used in this way. We don't say 'I am knowing', 'they are liking'. We say 'I know', 'they like'. |
| | The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous: |
| | like want need prefer |
| | know realise understand recognise |
| | believe suppose remember mean |
| | belong fit contain consist seem |
| | ☐ I'm hungry. I want something to eat. (not I'm wanting) ☐ Do you understand what I mean? ☐ Anna doesn't seem very happy right now. |
| В | think he nearest, all status that he tall have |
| | When think means 'believe' or 'have an opinion', we do not use the continuous: I think Mary is Canadian, but I'm not sure. (not I'm thinking) What do you think of my idea? (= what is your opinion?) |
| | When think means 'consider', the continuous is possible: 'm thinking about what happened. I often think about it. Nicky is thinking of giving up her job. (= she is considering it) |
| C | see hear smell taste look feel |
| llax | We normally use the present simple (not continuous) with see/hear/smell/taste: Do you see that man over there? (not are you seeing) The room smells. Let's open a window. This soup doesn't taste very good. |
| | You can use the present simple or continuous to say how somebody looks or feels now: You look well today. or You're looking well today. How do you feel now? or How are you feeling now? but |
| | ☐ I usually feel tired in the morning. (<i>not</i> I'm usually feeling) |
| D | am/is/are being |
| | You can say he's being , you're being etc. to say how somebody is behaving <i>now</i> : I can't understand why he 's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that. (being selfish = behaving selfishly now) 'The path is icy. Don't slip.' 'Don't worry. I'm being very careful.' |
| | Compare: He never thinks about other people. He's very selfish. (= he is selfish generally, not only now) I don't like to take risks. I'm a very careful person. |

Are you tired? (not are you being tired)

It is not usually possible in other situations:

Sam is ill. (not is being ill)

We use **am/is/are being** to say how a person is *behaving* (= doing something they can control) now.

Exercises

4.1 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

1 Are you hungry? Do you want (you / want) something to eat? 2 Alan says he's 90 years old, but nobody (believe) him. 3 She told me her name, but(I / not / remember) it now. 4 Don't put the dictionary away. (I / use) it. 5 Don't put the dictionary away.(I / need) it. (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen. 7 Who is that man? What (he / want)? 8 Who is that man? Why..... (he / look) at us? 9 Who is that man?(you / recognise) him?(I / think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it? 10 11 I can't make up my mind. What..... (you / think) I should do? 12 Gary wasn't well earlier, but ______ (he / seem) OK now.

4.2 Use the words in brackets to make sentences.



4.3 Are the <u>underlined</u> verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

Nicky is thinking of giving up her job.

It's not true. I'm not believing it.

I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat?

I've never eaten that fruit. What is it tasting like?

I'm not sure what she does. I think she works in a shop.

Look over there. What are you seeing?

You're very quiet. What are you thinking about?

4.4 Complete the sentences. Use is/are being (continuous) or is/are (simple).

1 I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that

| | y minimum of detriet. |
|---|---|
| 2 | You'll like Sophie when you meet her. Shevery nice. |
| | Sarahvery nice to me at the moment. I wonder why. |
| | Theyvery happy. They've just got married. |
| 5 | You're normally very patient, so whyso unreasonable about waiting |
| | ten more minutes? |
| - | Waylahayay liba a sarathia a ta a 12 |

Additional exercises

These exercises are divided into the following sections:

| These exercises are arriaged into the lotter in good of the | |
|---|-----------------|
| Present and past (Units 1–6) | Exercise 1 |
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| Present and past (Units 1–17) | Exercises 5–8 |
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| Pronouns and determiners (Units 82–91) | Exercise 30 |
| Adjectives and adverbs (Units 98–108) | Exercise 31 |
| Conjunctions (Units 25, 38, 112–118) | Exercise 32 |
| Prepositions (time) (Units 12, 119–122) | Exercise 33 |
| Prepositions (position etc.) (Units 123–128) | Exercise 34 |
| Noun/adjective + preposition (Units 129–131) | Exercise 35 |
| Verb + preposition (Units 132–136) | Exercise 36 |
| Phrasal verbs (Units 137–145) | Exercises 37–41 |

Present and past

Units 1-6, Appendix 2

Put the verb into the correct form: present simple (I do), present continuous (I am doing), past simple (I did) or past continuous (I was doing).

| | We can go out now. It isn't raining (it / not / rain) any more. Katherine was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (I / arrive). | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | (I / get) hungry. Let's go and have something to eat. | | | | | | | |
| 1 | What | | | | | | | |
| 5 The weather was horrible when | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| | (it / rain) hard. | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Louise usually(phone) me on Fridays, but | | | | | | | |
| | (she / not / phone) last Friday. | | | | | | | |
| 7 | A: When I last saw you,(you / think) of moving to a new flat. | | | | | | | |
| | B: That's right, but in the end(I / decide) to stay where I was. | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | I waved to Ben, but he didn't see me | | | | | | | |
| LU | direction. | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Lisa was busy when (we / go) to see her yesterday. She had an | | | | | | | |
| | exam today and(she / prepare) for it. | | | | | | | |
| | (we / not / want) to disturb her, so | | | | | | | |
| | (we / not / stay) very long. | | | | | | | |
| 12 | When I first(tell) Tom what happened, | | | | | | | |
| | (he / not / believe) me. (he / think) that | | | | | | | |
| | (I / joke). | | | | | | | |

Present and past

Units 1-14, Appendix 2

2 Which is correct?

- 1 Everything is going well. We <u>didn't have</u> / haven't had any problems so far. (haven't had *is correct*)
- 2 Lisa didn't go / hasn't gone to work yesterday. She wasn't feeling well.
- 3 Look! That man over there wears / is wearing the same sweater as you.
- 4 I went / have been to New Zealand last year.
- 5 I didn't hear / haven't heard from Jess recently. I hope she's OK.
- 6 I wonder why James is / is being so nice to me today. He isn't usually like that.
- 7 Jane had a book open in front of her, but she didn't read / wasn't reading it.
- 8 I wasn't very busy. I didn't have / wasn't having much to do.
- 9 It begins / It's beginning to get dark. Shall I turn on the light?
- 10 After leaving school, Mark worked / has worked in a hotel for a while.
- 11 When Sue heard the news, she wasn't / hasn't been very pleased.
- 12 This is a nice hotel, isn't it? Is this the first time you stay / you've stayed here?
- 13 I need a new job. I'm doing / I've been doing the same job for too long.
- 14 'Anna has gone out.' 'Oh, has she? What time did she go / has she gone?'
- 15 'You look tired.' 'Yes, I've played / I've been playing basketball.'
- 16 Where are you coming / do you come from? Are you American?
- 17 I'd like to see Tina again. It's a long time since I saw her / that I didn't see her.
- 18 Robert and Maria have been married since 20 years / for 20 years.

| 3 | Complete each | question | using a | suitable v | erb. |
|---|---------------|----------|---------|------------|------|
|---|---------------|----------|---------|------------|------|

B: No, never, but I went to Canada a few years ago.

| _ | 011 | ipiete each question asing a suitable verb | • | |
|----|-----|---|--------------------|--|
| 1 | | : I'm looking for Paul. Have you seen hin : Yes, he was here a moment ago. | m? | |
| 2 | | : Why <u>did you go</u> to bed so early last nig : I was feeling very tired. | ht? | |
| 3 | | : Where : Just to the shop at the end of the street. I'll | | |
| 4 | | :TV : No, only if there's something special on. | every day? | |
| 5 | | : Your house is lovely. How long : Nearly ten years. | here? | |
| 6 | | : How was your parents' holiday? : Yes, they really enjoyed it. | a nice time? | |
| 7 | | :Sa : Yes, we had lunch together a few days ago. | rah recently? | |
| 8 | | Can you describe the woman you saw? Wh A red sweater and black jeans. | at? | |
| 9 | | l'm sorry to keep you waiting No, only about ten minutes. | long? | |
| 10 | | How long Usually about 45 minutes. It depends on th | | |
| 11 | | No, this is the first time. I like it. | s song before? | |
| 10 | ۸. | +0 | the United States? | |

Additional exercises

Use your own ideas to complete B's sentences.

| 1500 | / | |
|------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | A: What's Chicago like? Is it a good place to visit? | contract and |
| | B: I've no idea. I've never been | there. |
| 2 | A: How well do you know Ben? | |
| | B: Very well. We | since we were children. |
| 3 | A: Did you enjoy your holiday? | |
| | B: Yes, it was really good. It's the best holiday | |
| 4 | A: Is David still here? | |
| | B: No, I'm afraid he isn't. | about ten minutes ago. |
| 5 | A: I like your suit. I haven't seen it before. | |
| | B: It's new. It's the first time | |
| 6 | A: How did you cut your knee? | |
| | B: I slipped and fell when | tennis. |
| 7 | A: Do you ever go swimming? | |
| | B: Not these days. I haven't | a long time. |
| 8 | A: How often do you go to the cinema? | |
| | B: Very rarely. It's nearly a year | to the cinema. |
| 9 | A: I bought some new shoes. Do you like them? | |
| | B: Yes, they're very nice. Where | them? |

Present and past

Units 1-17, 110, Appendix 2

Put the verb into the correct form: past simple (I did), past continuous (I was doing), past perfect (I had done) or past perfect continuous (I had been doing).



