

Present Continuous

(also called Present Progressive)

We often use the **Present Continuous tense** in English. It is very different from the [Present Simple](#) tense, both in structure and in use.

How do we make the Present Continuous tense?

The structure of the Present Continuous tense is:

subject	+	auxiliary <i>be</i>	+	main verb
		conjugated in Present Simple		
		am, are, is		present participle (-ing)

The auxiliary verb (be) is conjugated in the Present Simple: *am, are, is*

The main verb is invariable in present participle form: *-ing*

For negative sentences we insert **not** between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.

For question sentences, we **exchange** the subject and the auxiliary verb.

Look at these example sentences with the Present Continuous tense:

	subject	auxiliary verb		main verb	
+	I	am		speaking	to you.
+	You	are		reading	this.
-	She	is	not	staying	in London.
-	We	are	not	playing	football.
?	Is	he		watching	TV?
?	Are	they		waiting	for John?

How do we use the Present Continuous tense?

We use the Present Continuous to talk about:




- action happening now
- action in the future

Present Continuous for action happening now

a) for action happening **exactly now**

I am eating my lunch.		
past	present	future
	The action is happening now.	

Look at these images. Right now you are looking at this screen and at the same time...

		
the pages are turning	the candle is burning	the numbers are spinning

b) for action happening **around now**

The action may not be happening exactly now, but it is happening just before and just after now, and it is not permanent or habitual.

John is looking for a new job.		
past	present	future
	The action is happening "around" now.	

Look at these examples:

- Muriel **is learning** to drive.
- I **am living** with my sister until I find an apartment.

Present Continuous for the future

We can also use the Present Continuous tense to talk about the **future** - if we add a **future word**!! We must add (or understand from the context) a future word. "Future words" include, for example, **tomorrow, next year, in June, at Christmas** etc. We only use the Present Continuous tense to talk about the future when we have planned to do something before we speak. We have already **made a decision and a plan** before speaking.

I am taking my exam next month.		
past	present	future
!!!		
	A firm plan or programme exists now.	The action is in the future.

Look at these examples:

- We're **eating** at Joe's Cafe tonight. We've already booked the table..
- They can play tennis with you tomorrow. They're not **working**.
- When **are** you **starting** your new job?

In these examples, **a firm plan or programme exists before speaking**. The decision and plan were made **before** speaking.

How do we spell the Present Continuous tense?

We make the Present Continuous tense by adding -ing to the base verb. Normally it's simple: we just add -ing. But sometimes we have to change the word a little. Perhaps we double the last letter, or we drop a letter. Here are the rules to help you know how to spell the Present Continuous tense.

Basic rule	Just add -ing to the base verb:		
	work	→	working
	play	→	playing
	assist	→	assisting
	see	→	seeing
	be	→	being
Exception	If the base verb ends in consonant + stressed vowel + consonant , double the last letter:		

	<table><tr><td>s</td><td>t</td><td>o</td><td>p</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>consonant</td><td>stressed vowel</td><td>consonant</td></tr></table>			s	t	o	p		consonant	stressed vowel	consonant
	s	t	o	p							
		consonant	stressed vowel	consonant							
	vowels = a, e, i, o, u										
	stop	→	stopping								
	run	→	running								
	begin	→	beginning								
Note that this exception does not apply when the last syllable of the base verb is not stressed:											
open	→	opening									
Exception	If the base verb ends in ie , change the ie to y :										
	lie	→	lying								
	die	→	dying								
Exception	If the base verb ends in vowel + consonant + e , omit the e :										
	come	→	coming								
	mistake	→	mistaking								

Note that **continuous** tenses are also called **progressive** tenses. So the Present Continuous tense is sometimes called the Present Progressive tense.

Источник:

https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verb-tenses_present-continuous.htm