

Present Continuous - Present Simple

Present Continuous



Bob and Claire **aren't working** today. They're on holiday. They're **having** a nice time. What is **Bob** doing now? He is **taking** a picture of Claire.

We form the present continuous with the auxiliary verb **to be** and the main verb with the **-ing** suffix. The main verb with the **-ing** suffix is the same in all persons.

Affirmative			
	Long form	Short form	
I	am	'm	} reading.
He/She/It	is	's	
You/We/They	are	're	
Interrogative			
Am	I	} reading?	
Is	he/she/it		
Are	you/we/they		
Negative			
	Long form	Short form	
I	am not	'm not	} reading.
He/She/It	is not	isn't	
You/We/They	are not	aren't	

Spelling Rules

- ◆ Verbs ending in **-e**, drop the **-e** and take the **-ing** suffix.
dance - dancing but see - seeing
- ◆ Verbs ending in **one stressed vowel** between **two consonants**, double the last consonant and take the **-ing** suffix.
run - running get - getting but open - opening
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-l**, double the **-l** and take the **-ing** suffix.
travel - travelling
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-ie**, drop the **-ie** and take **-y + -ing**.
lie - lying die - dying

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Add -ing to the verbs and put them in the correct boxes.

talk, dive, swim, shop, lie, study, mend, write, try, take, cook, stop, sleep, die, sit

+ ing	-ie → y + ing
<i>talking</i>	
-e → ing	double consonant + ing

2

Fill in the gaps with the present continuous.

- We *are/re tidying* (tidy) the garden.
- I (not/do) my homework.
- (Dad/paint) the living-room?
- He (run).
- The girls (play) with their dolls.
- John (study) at university.
- Helen and I (make) dinner.
- (you/listen) to the radio?

Use

We use the present continuous:

- ◆ for actions happening now, at the moment of speaking.

He **is reading** a book right now.



- ◆ for temporary actions happening around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.

She **is practising** for a concert these days. (She's not practising right now; she's resting.)



- ◆ with 'always' for actions happening too often and about which we wish to express our annoyance or criticism.

'You're **always interrupting** me!' (annoyance)



- ◆ for fixed arrangements in the near future.

He **is flying** to Milan in an hour. (It's been arranged.)



Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present continuous include: *now, at the moment, these days, at present, always, tonight, still,* etc.

3

Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous.



Four people 1) *...are sitting...* (sit) at a table. They are in a restaurant. They 2) (have) dinner. They 3) (wear) smart clothes. The man 4) (wear) a suit. The parents 5) (smile) at each other and they 6) (talk). The children 7) (listen). The girl 8) (drink) some Coke. The boy 9) (eat) some bread. They 10) (enjoy) their meal.

Short Answers

In short answers we use only **Yes** or **No**, the subject pronoun and the auxiliary verb *is/isn't* or *are/aren't*. We do not repeat the whole question.

Are you leaving?	Yes, I am/we are.	No, I'm not/we aren't.
Is he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it is.	No, he/she/it isn't.
Are they ...?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

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Look at the picture in ex. 3 again. In pairs, ask and answer questions, as in the example.

- the parents / wear / sports clothes?
SA: *Are the parents wearing sports clothes?*
SB: *No, they aren't. They're wearing smart clothes.*
- the four people / have / dinner?
- the children / talk?
- the girl / drink / some juice?
- the boy / eat / some ice-cream?

Present Simple



Richard Taylor and Sarah Perkins **work** in the same office.

What time **do they start** work?

Sarah **arrives** at work at 9 o'clock but Richard **doesn't get** to the office until 10 o'clock.

We form the present simple with the **subject** (i.e. the subject pronoun or noun) and the **main verb**. We usually add an **-s** to the **third person singular** in the affirmative. In the interrogative and negative forms, we use the auxiliary verb **do/don't** with I, you, we, they and **does/doesn't** with he, she and it. We do not add an **-s** to the main verb when it appears with **does/doesn't**.

Affirmative			
I/You/We/They		read.	
He/She/It		reads.	
Interrogative			
Do I/you/we/they	}	read?	
Does he/she/it			
Negative			
	Long form	Short form	} read.
I/You/We/They	do not	don't	
He/She/It	does not	doesn't	

Spelling Rules

- ◆ Most verbs take **-s** in the third person singular.
I read - he reads
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-ss, -sh, -ch, -x** and **-o**, take **-es**.
*I kiss - he kisses, I brush - he brushes,
I teach - he teaches, I fix - he fixes, I go - he goes*
- ◆ Verbs ending in a **consonant + y**, drop the **-y** and take **-ies**.
I try - he tries, I fly - he flies
- ◆ Verbs ending in a **vowel + y**, simply take **-s**.
I buy - he buys

5 Write the **third person singular** of the verbs in the list in the correct box.

dance, finish, study, open, mix, pray, put, miss, like, dry, do, catch, wash, say, cry, copy, watch, play, pass, begin

-s	-es	-ies
dances	finishes	studies
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

6 Fill in the gaps with the present simple.

- 1 A: Where *is* (be) Jack?
B: At school.
- 2 A: (you/come) here very often?
B: Yes, every evening.
- 3 A: I (play) tennis in the summer.
B: Really? So do I!
- 4 A: We (leave) the house at 6:30 every morning.
B: That's very early.
- 5 A: Sam (not/know) anything about the party.
B: I know. It's a surprise.

Pronunciation

In the present simple the suffix of the third person singular is pronounced:


- ◆ / s / when the verb ends in a / f /, / k /, / p / or / t / sound.
laughs, drinks, sleeps, hates
- ◆ / ɪz / when the verb ends in a / s /, / ʃ /, / tʃ /, / dʒ / or / z / sound.
misses, wishes, matches, arranges, rises
- ◆ / z / when the verb ends in any other sound.
dreams, stays, begins, stands, saves

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Write the third person singular of the verbs in the correct box, then read them aloud.

laugh, kiss, read, look, speak, kick, put, catch, drive, brush, ride, walk, open, jump, play, know, cough, see, dance, close, help, listen, watch, wash, travel, write, lose, eat, rain, change

/ s /	<i>laughs,</i>
/ ɪz /	<i>kisses,</i>
/ z /	<i>reads,</i>



Use

The present simple is used for:

- ◆ permanent states.
- ◆ repeated actions or daily routines (often with adverbs of frequency such as: always, never, usually, etc.).



Mr Gibson is a businessman. He **lives** in New York. (permanent state)
He **usually starts** work at 9 am. (daily routine)
He **often stays** at the office until late in the evening. (daily routine)

- ◆ general truths or laws of nature.

The moon **moves** round the earth.



- ◆ programmes or timetables (trains, buses, etc.).

The bus **leaves** in ten minutes.



Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present simple include: *usually, always* (adverbs of frequency), etc., *every day/week/month/year, etc., on Mondays/Tuesdays, etc., in the morning/afternoon/evening, at night/the weekend, etc.*

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the present continuous or the present simple.

- 1 A: Where's James?
B: He **isn't playing**... (play) football in the garden right now.
- 2 A: Bill (dance) very well.
B: Yes, he's a good singer, too.
- 3 A: Lucy is very busy.
B: Yes. She (work) very hard these days.
- 4 A: What (you/do) on Saturdays?
B: I clean the house and go shopping.
- 5 A: Why (you/pack) your suitcase?
B: Because I (fly) to Paris tomorrow morning.
- 6 A: Fred (not/know) how to swim.
B: That's because he's only three.
- 7 A: Max looks very fit.
B: Yes. He (take) a lot of exercise these days.