



Present Continuous

*College of Agriculture
Department of Agricultural Machines
English_3
Lecture #3*

Present continuous

The present continuous is made from the **present tense of the verb be** and the **ing form** of a verb:

<i>I am</i>	<i>working</i>
<i>You are</i>	<i>playing</i>
<i>He is</i>	<i>talking</i>
<i>She is</i>	<i>living</i>
<i>It is</i>	<i>eating</i>
<i>We are</i>	<i>staying</i>
<i>They are</i>	<i>sleeping</i>

We use the present continuous to talk about:

➤ **Activities at the moment of speaking:**

*I'm just **leaving** work. I'll be home in an hour.*

*Please be quiet. The children **are sleeping**.*

➤ **Future plans or arrangements:**

*Mary **is going** to a new school next term.*

*What **are you doing** next week?*

We also use the present continuous to talk about:

- Something which is happening **before and after a specific time:**

*At eight o'clock we **are usually having** breakfast.*

*When I get home the children **are doing** their homework.*

- Something which **we think is temporary:**

*Michael is at university. He's **studying** history.*

*I'm **working** in London for the next two weeks.*

- Something which is **new** and **contrasts** with a previous state:

These days most people are using email instead of writing letters.

What sort of clothes are teenagers wearing nowadays?

What sort of music are they listening to?

➤ Something which is changing, growing or developing:

*The children **are growing up** quickly.*

*The climate **is changing** rapidly.*

*Your English **is improving**.*

➤ Something which happens **again and again**:

*It's **always raining** in London.*

*They **are always arguing**.*

*George is great. He's **always laughing**.*

✓ Note that we normally use **always** with this use.

Present continuous questions

- We make questions by putting **am**, **is** or **are** in front of the **subject**:

Are you listening?

Are they coming to your party?

*When **is** she going home?*

*What **am** I doing here?*

Present continuous negatives

- We make negatives by putting **not** (or **n't**) after **am**, **is** or **are**:

*I'm **not** doing that.*

*You **aren't** listening. (or You're **not** listening.)*

*They **aren't** coming to the party. (or They're **not** coming to the party.)*

*She **isn't** going home until Monday. (or She's **not** going home until Monday.)*

Stative verbs

We do not normally use the continuous **with stative verbs**. Stative verbs include:

- **verbs of thinking and feeling:**

believe
dislike
know
like

love
hate
prefer
realise

recognise
remember
suppose
think (= believe)

understand
want
wish

- verbs of the senses:

<i>appear</i> <i>feel</i>	<i>look</i> <i>seem</i>	<i>smell</i> <i>sound</i>	<i>taste</i>
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- others:

<i>agree</i> <i>be</i>	<i>belong</i> <i>disagree</i>	<i>need</i> <i>owe</i>	<i>own</i> <i>possess</i>
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- We normally use the simple instead:

I understand you. (NOT *I ~~am understanding~~ you.*)

This cake tastes wonderful. (NOT *This cake ~~is tasting~~ wonderful.*)

Thank you

