

5 Present Continuous (1)

1 We form the Present Continuous like this:

be + -ing form
I am eating.

Here are the forms of the Present Continuous:

POSITIVE

FULL FORM

I **am** eating.
You **are** eating.
He/She/It **is** eating.
We **are** eating.
You **are** eating.
They **are** eating.

SHORT FORM

I'**m** eating.
You'**re** eating.
He'**s** eating.
We'**re** eating.
You'**re** eating.
They'**re** eating.

NEGATIVE

FULL FORM

I **am not** eating.
You **are not** eating.
He/She/It **is not** eating.
We **are not** eating.
You **are not** eating.
They **are not** eating.

SHORT FORM

I'**m not** eating.
You **aren't** eating.
He **isn't** eating.
We **aren't** eating.
You **aren't** eating.
They **aren't** eating.

2 To make the -ing form, we add -ing to the verb:

listen → listening play → playing
work → working read → reading

3 But notice these irregular spellings:

win → winning get → getting
shop → shopping sit → sitting
swim → swimming travel → travelling
dance → dancing write → writing
shine → shining

(For more details on the spelling of the -ing form, see Appendix 2, page 243.)

4 We use the Present Continuous:

► to talk about actions and situations in progress now:



► to talk about actions and situations in progress around now, but not exactly at the moment we speak:



Practice

A Look at these pictures.



Decide what is happening (✓) and what isn't happening (X) in each picture, and then write positive or negative sentences.

- (George/eat/breakfast)
- (George/sleep)
- 1 (They/work)
- (They/sit/in the garden)
- 2 (I/study/music)
- (I/learn/Japanese)

X	George isn't eating breakfast.....
✓	George is sleeping.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

- 3 (He/play/tennis)
(She/win)
- 4 (We/spend/a day at the seaside)
(The sun/shine)

....
....
....
....

B Finish the postcard using the words in brackets () in the Present Continuous. Use full forms (e.g. *is sitting*).

Dear Peter,

Jenny and I (▶) *are staying*..... (stay) here for a week.
 The sun (1)..... (shine) and it's very hot.
 We (2)..... (sit) on the beach and I
 (3)..... (drink) an orange juice.
 We (4)..... (not/swim) because we're
 both tired. We (5)..... (watch) the boats on
 the sea at the moment. They (6)..... (travel) fast,
 but I can see fifteen or sixteen. Jenny (7)..... (read)
 her book, and I (8)..... (write) all the postcards!



Jim and Jenny

C Match the two halves of the sentences. Then put in the correct form of the verb in brackets ().

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▶ My aunt <i>is staying</i> (stay) with us this week | a so he can't drink beer at the moment. |
| 1 I (go) to work by bike this week | b because she (work) at home. |
| 2 My father (take) some medicine | c so she (stay) at home today. |
| 3 Anna is not in the office this week | d so I <i>am sleeping</i> (sleep) in the living room. |
| 4 Pauline needs some exercise | e because our oven is broken. |
| 5 We (eat) in a restaurant this week | f because he wants to get a good mark. |
| 6 Jill doesn't feel well | g because I haven't got money for petrol. |
| 7 Tom (study) more now | h so she (walk) to school this week. |

▶ d..... 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

FREE from Grammar to go!