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

Study the explanations and compare the examples:

Present continuous (**I am doing**)
Use the continuous for something that is happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

I am doing

past *now* *future*

- The water **is boiling**. Can you turn it off?
- Listen to those people. What language **are** they **speaking**?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- 'Don't disturb me. I'm busy.' 'Why? What **are** you **doing**?'
- I'm **going** to bed now. Goodnight!
- Maria is in Britain at the moment. She's **learning** English.

Use the continuous for a *temporary* situation:

- I'm **living** with some friends until I find a flat.
- 'You're **working** hard today.' 'Yes, I've got a lot to do.'

See Unit 1 for more information.

Present simple (**I do**)
Use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

I do

past *now* *future*

- 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?
- What **do** you **do**? (= What's your job?)
- I always **go** to bed before midnight.
- Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.

Use the simple for a *permanent* situation:

- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- John isn't lazy. He **works** very hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

B I always do and I'm always doing

Usually we say 'I **always do** something' (= I do it every time):

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

You can also say 'I'm always doing something', but this has a different meaning. For example:



'I'm always losing things' does *not* mean that I lose things every time. It means that I lose things *too often*, *more often than normal*.

'You're always -ing' means that you do something very often, more often than the speaker thinks is normal or reasonable.

- You're **always watching** television. You should do something more active.
- John is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**.

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EXERCISES

3.1 *Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct the verbs that are wrong.*

1 Water boils at 100 degrees celsius. RIGHT
2 The water boils. Can you turn it off? WRONG: is boiling
3 Look! That man tries to open the door of your car. .....
4 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? .....
5 The moon goes round the earth. .....
6 I must go now. It gets late. .....
7 I usually go to work by car. .....
8 'Hurry up! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.' .....
9 I hear you've got a new job. How do you get on? .....

3.2 *Put the verb in the correct form, present continuous or present simple.*

1 Let's go out. It isn't raining (not/rain) now.
2 Julia is very good at languages. She speaks (speak) four languages very well.
3 Hurry up! Everybody ..... (wait) for you.
4 '..... (you/listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'
5 '..... (you/listen) to the radio every day?' 'No, just occasionally.'
6 The River Nile ..... (flow) into the Mediterranean.
7 Look at the river. It ..... (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
8 We usually ..... (grow) vegetables in our garden but this year we ..... (not/grow) any.
9 'How is your English?' 'Not bad. It ..... (improve) slowly.'
10 Ron is in London at the moment. He ..... (stay) at the Park Hotel. He ..... (always/stay) there when he's in London.
11 Can we stop walking soon? I ..... (start) to feel tired.
12 'Can you drive?' 'I ..... (learn). My father ..... (teach) me.'
13 Normally I ..... (finish) work at 5.00, but this week I ..... (work) until 6.00 to earn a bit more money.
14 My parents ..... (live) in Bristol. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where ..... (your parents/live)?
15 Sonia ..... (look) for a place to live. She ..... (stay) with her sister until she finds somewhere.
16 'What ..... (your father/do)?' 'He's an architect but he ..... (not/work) at the moment.'
17 *(at a party)* Usually I ..... (enjoy) parties but I ..... (not/enjoy) this one very much.
18 The train is never late. It ..... (always/leave) on time.
19 Jim is very untidy. He ..... (always/leave) his things all over the place.

3.3 *Finish B's sentences. Use* always -ing *(see Section B).*

1 A: I'm afraid I've lost my key again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your key.
2 A: The car has broken down again.
B: That car is useless! It .....
3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.
B: Oh no, not again! I .....
4 A: Oh, I've left the lights on again.
B: Typical! You .....

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