

Present continuous (**I am doing**)**A** Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She's **driving** to work. (= She **is driving** ...)

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
The action is not finished.

am/is/are + -ing is the *present continuous*:

I	am	(= I'm)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he's etc.)	working
we/you/they	are	(= we're etc.)	doing etc.

**B** **I am doing** something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

- ☐ Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- ☐ 'Where's Mark?' 'He's **having** a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- ☐ Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- ☐ How's your new job? **Are** you **enjoying** it?
- ☐ What's all that noise? What's **going** on? *or* What's **happening**?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm reading a really good book at the moment.
It's about a man who ...

Steve says '**I'm reading** ...' but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking.

He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- ☐ Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
(but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- ☐ Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

- ☐ A: You're **working** hard **today**. (*not* You work hard today)
- B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- ☐ The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

D We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

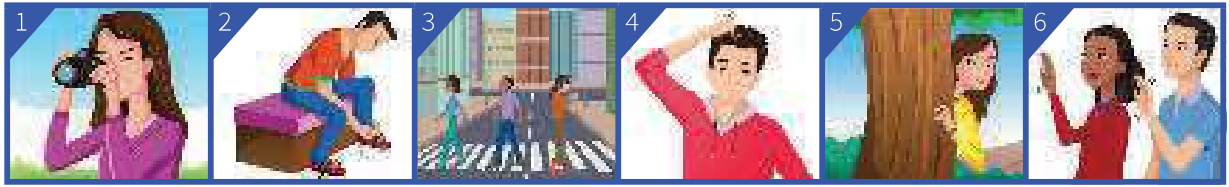
getting, becoming
starting, beginning

changing, improving
increasing, rising, falling, growing

- ☐ Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- ☐ The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- ☐ At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **starting** to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)

1.1 What's happening in the pictures? Choose from these verbs:

cross hide scratch ~~take~~ tie wave



- 1 She's taking a picture. 4 his head.
2 He a shoelace. 5 behind a tree.
3 the road. 6 to somebody.

1.2 The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Please don't make so much noise. | a I'm getting hungry. | 1 <u>f</u> |
| 2 We need to leave soon. | b They're lying. | 2 |
| 3 I don't have anywhere to live right now. | c It's starting to rain. | 3 |
| 4 I need to eat something soon. | d They're trying to sell it. | 4 |
| 5 They don't need their car any more. | e It's getting late. | 5 |
| 6 Things are not so good at work. | f I'm trying to work. | 6 |
| 7 It isn't true what they say. | g I'm staying with friends. | 7 |
| 8 We're going to get wet. | h The company is losing money. | 8 |

1.3 Write questions. Use the present continuous.

- 1 What's all that noise? What's happening? (what / happen?)
2 What's the matter? (why / you / cry?)
3 Where's your mother? (she / work / today?)
4 I haven't seen you for ages. (what / you / do / these days?)
5 Amy is a student. (what / she / study?)
6 Who are those people? (what / they / do?)
7 I heard you started a new job. (you / enjoy / it?)
8 We're not in a hurry. (why / you / walk / so fast?)

1.4 Put the verb into the correct form, positive (I'm doing etc.) or negative (I'm not doing etc.).

- 1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) any more.
3 You can turn off the radio. (I / listen) to it.
4 Kate phoned last night. She's on holiday with friends. (She / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
5 Andrew started evening classes recently. (He / learn) Japanese.
6 Paul and Sarah have had an argument and now (they / speak) to one another.
7 The situation is already very bad and now (it / get) worse.
8 Tim (work) today. He's taken the day off.
9 (I / look) for Sophie. Do you know where she is?
10 The washing machine has been repaired. (It / work) now.
11 (They / build) a new hospital. It will be finished next year.
12 Ben is a student, but he's not very happy. (He / enjoy) his course.
13 (The weather / change). Look at those clouds.
I think it's going to rain.
14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. (He / start) to get bored with it.

Present simple (**I do**)

A Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep.
He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. He is a bus driver.

drive(s), work(s), do(es) etc. is the *present simple*:

I/we/you/they	drive/work/do etc.
---------------	---------------------------

he/she/it	drives/works/does etc.
-----------	-------------------------------

B We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- ☐ Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- ☐ I usually **go** away at weekends.
- ☐ The earth **goes** round the sun.
- ☐ The cafe **opens** at 7.30 in the morning.

We say:

I work	but	he works	you go	but	it goes
they teach	but	my sister teaches	I have	but	he has

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

C We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

do does	I/we/you/they he/she/it	work? drive? do?	I/we/you/they he/she/it	don't doesn't	work drive do
--------------------------	----------------------------	---	----------------------------	--------------------------------	--

- ☐ I come from Canada. Where **do** you **come** from?
- ☐ I **don't go** away very often.
- ☐ What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- ☐ Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do** etc.):

- ☐ 'What **do** you **do**?' 'I work in a shop.'
- ☐ He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.

D We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- ☐ I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- ☐ **How often do** you **go** to the dentist?
- ☐ Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- ☐ Robert usually **goes** away **two or three times a year**.

E I **promise** / I **apologise** etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you promise to do something, you can say 'I **promise** ...'; when you suggest something, you can say 'I **suggest** ...':

- ☐ I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- ☐ 'What do **you suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

In the same way we say: I **apologise** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **agree** ... / I **refuse** ... etc.

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) close(s) connect(s) go(es) live(s) ~~speaks(s)~~ take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 Ben and Jack to the same school.
- 3 Bad driving many accidents.
- 4 The museum at 4 o'clock on Sundays.
- 5 My parents in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I have a car, but I (not / use) it much.
- 4 Where (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish?
- 5 'What (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- 7 David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport.
- 8 It (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long (it / take) you?

2.3 Complete the sentences using these verbs. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe eat flow ~~go~~ ~~grow~~ make rise tell translate

- 1 The earth goes round the sun.
- 2 Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.
- 3 The sun in the east.
- 4 Bees honey.
- 5 Vegetarians meat.
- 6 An atheist in God.
- 7 An interpreter from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who the truth.
- 9 The River Amazon into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often do you play tennis ?
- 2 Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... your sister ?
- 3 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
..... ?
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.
..... ?
- 5 You're not sure whether Lisa speaks Spanish. You want to know. Ask her.
..... ?
- 6 You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... ?

2.5 Complete using the following:

I agree I apologise I insist I promise I recommend ~~I suggest~~

- 1 Mr Evans is not in the office today. I suggest you try calling him tomorrow.
- 2 I won't tell anybody what you said.
- 3 (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal.
- 4 for what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- 5 The new restaurant in Baker Street is very good. it.
- 6 I think you're absolutely right. with you.

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

A

Compare:

present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking.
The action is not complete.

I am doing

past now future

- ☐ The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- ☐ Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**?
- ☐ Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- ☐ 'I'm busy.' 'What **are you doing**?'
- ☐ I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- ☐ Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- ☐ The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

We use the continuous for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- ☐ I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- ☐ A: You're **working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

present simple (I do)

We 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?
- ☐ I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- ☐ Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- ☐ Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

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

See Unit 2 for more information.

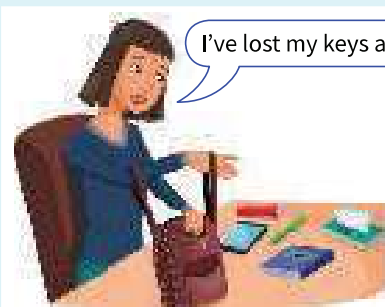
B **I always do and I'm always doing**

I always do something = I do it every time:

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

I'm always doing something = I do it too often or more often than normal.

For example:



I'm always losing them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

- ☐ Paul is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= he complains too much)
- ☐ You're **always looking** at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

3.1 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. OK
2 How often are you going to the cinema? do you go
3 Ben tries to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet.
4 Martina is phoning her mother every day.
5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days.
6 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about?
7 What do you do in your spare time?
8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She doesn't eat meat.
9 I must go now. It gets late.
10 'Come on! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.'
11 Paul is never late. He s always starting work on time.
12 They don't get on well. They re always arguing.

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

- 1 a I usually get (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.
b I'm getting (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.
2 a '..... (you / listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'
b '..... (you / listen) to the radio a lot?' 'No, not very often.'
3 a The River Nile (flow) into the Mediterranean.
b The river (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
4 a I'm not very active. (I / not / do) any sport.
b What (you / usually / do) at weekends?
5 a Rachel is in New York right now. (She / stay) at the Park Hotel.
b (She / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

3.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Why are all these people here? What's happening (What / happen)?
2 Julia is good at languages. (She / speak) four languages very well.
3 Are you ready yet? (Everybody / wait) for you.
4 I've never heard this word. How (you / pronounce) it?
5 Kate (not / work) this week. She's on holiday.
6 I think my English (improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
7 Nicola (live) in Manchester. She has never lived anywhere else.
8 Can we stop walking soon? (I / start) to get tired.
9 Sam and Tina are in Madrid right now. (They / visit) a friend of theirs.
10 'What (your father / do)?' 'He's an architect.'
11 It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days
(it / not / take) so long.
12 I (I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My father
..... (teach) me.

3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use **always -ing**.

- 1 A: I've lost my keys again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys
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 my phone at home again.
B: Typical!