

The Present Continuous Tense

Introduction

1) We use the present continuous when we talk about something which is happening at the time of speaking, or actions happening 'around now', even though not at the moment of speaking. The present continuous also has some future meanings.

Hey, what are you doing? – I am working on my thesis. I am graduating this semester.

2) The present continuous is formed with the auxiliary verb *to be* and the *-ing* form of the main verb.

This is contracted in speech and informal writing. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and the auxiliary verb *to be*. Negatives are formed with the verb *to be + not*. This is also contracted in speech and informal writing.

(+) He is sleeping on the couch in the living room./He's sleeping there.

(-) He is not sleeping on the couch in the living room./He isn't sleeping there.

(?) Where is he? Is he sleeping?

Verbs ending in *-e* drop *-e* and add *-ing*.

like – liking, write – writing

Verbs with one syllable, ending in *one vowel and one consonant*, double the consonant and add *-ing*.

sit – sitting, swim – swimming

Verbs ending *-ie* change *-ie* to *-y* and add *-ing*.

lie – lying, die – dying

Some **time markers** can show that we talk about something which is happening at the time of speaking, or actions happening 'around now'. These **time markers** are *now, right now, at the moment, today, this week etc.*

*I'm quite busy **this year** as I'm trying to start my small business.*

We also use the present continuous when we talk about changing situations.

~~*The population of the world increases very fast.*~~ *The population of the world is increasing very fast.*

Short Story Dialogue

The present continuous is widely used in daily life.

– *Hello, Mike! **How are you doing these days?***

– *Hi, Sam! I'm fine, thanks! **I'm doing an internship at one publishing house.***

– *Oh, really? **Are you enjoying it?***

– *Yeah, **I'm learning a lot of small but crucial details.** How about you?*

– *Well, **I'm not working at the moment. I'm trying to find a job in my field.** It's a difficult task!*

– *Yeah, I totally get you! Well, I have to go now. Good luck!*

– *Thanks! Good luck to you too! See you!*

– *Bye!*

Independent Practice - Present continuous tense

1) Underline the correct phrase.

- | |
|---|
| a. Be quiet! I <i>try/am trying</i> to concentrate. |
| b. Sorry, I can't help you right now. I <i>be fixing/am fixing</i> my dad's computer. |
| c. It's very warm today. Why <i>you are/are you</i> wearing a coat? |

2) Complete each sentence with a suitable phrase.

<i>beginning</i>	<i>becoming</i>	<i>doing</i>	<i>giving</i>
a. Don't disturb Ann. She is her taxes.			
b. This is a brilliant, isn't it? They're their best performance.			
c. At first I didn't like my job, but I'm to enjoy it.			
d. Ocean pollution is a real problem.			

3) Answer the questions.

a. What are you doing right now?
b. Is anything interesting happening in your country?
c. Do you know what your family is doing now?

Independent Practice: Answers - Present continuous tense

1) Underline the correct phrase.

- a. Be quiet! I *try/am trying* to concentrate.
- b. Sorry, I can't help you right now. I *be fixing/am fixing* my dad's computer.
- c. It's very warm today. Why *you are/are you* wearing a coat?

2) Complete each sentence with a suitable phrase.

- a. Don't disturb Ann. She is **doing** her taxes.
- b. This is a brilliant, isn't it? They're **giving** their best performance.
- c. At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **beginning** to enjoy it.
- d. Ocean pollution is **becoming** a real problem.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. I am doing my homework right now.
- b. There isn't anything interesting happening in my country now.
- c. My family is having a dinner party today.