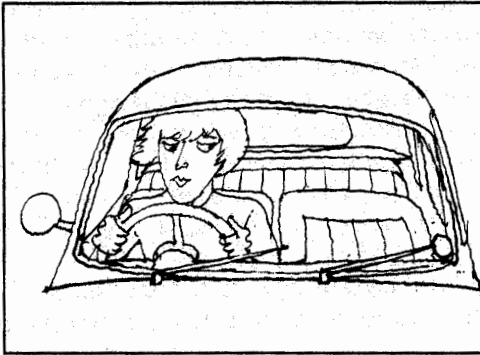


UNIT 1 Present continuous (I am doing)

a) Study this example situation:



Ann is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She is **driving** to work.

This means: she is driving now, at the time of speaking.

This is the *present continuous* tense:

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

We use the present continuous when we talk about something which is happening at the time of speaking:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm studying.** (*not* 'I study')
- 'Where is Margaret?' 'She's **having** a bath.' (*not* 'she has')
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more.
- (*at a party*) Hello, Ann. **Are you enjoying** the party? (*not* 'do you enjoy')

b) We also use the present continuous when we talk about something which is happening around the time of speaking, but not necessarily exactly at the time of speaking. Study this example situation:

- Tom and Ann are talking and drinking in a café. Tom says: '**I'm reading** an interesting book at the moment. I'll lend it to you when I've finished it.'

Tom is not reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has begun the book and hasn't finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it. Here are some more examples:

- Silvia **is learning** English at the moment. (*not* 'learns')
- Have you heard about Tom? He **is building** his own house. (*not* 'builds')

But perhaps Silvia and Tom are not doing these things exactly at the time of speaking.

c) We often use the present continuous when we talk about a period around the present. For example: **today, this season** etc.:

- 'You're **working hard** today.' 'Yes, I have a lot to do.'
- Tom **isn't playing** football **this season**. He wants to concentrate on his studies.

d) We use the present continuous when we talk about changing situations:

- The population of the world **is rising** very fast. (*not* 'rises')
- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* 'does ... get')

UNIT 1 Exercises

1.1 In this exercise you have to put the verb into the correct form.

Examples: Please don't make so much noise. I **am studying** (study).

Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** (not/rain) any more.

Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking** (they/speak) ?

- 1 Please be quiet. I (try) to concentrate.
- 2 Look! It (snow).
- 3 Why (you/look) at me like that? Have I said something wrong?
- 4 You (make) a lot of noise. Can you be a bit quieter?
- 5 Excuse me, I (look) for a phone box. Is there one near here?
- 6 (*in the cinema*) It's a good film, isn't it? (you/enjoy) it?
- 7 Listen! Can you hear those people next door? They (shout) at each other again.
- 8 Why (you/wear) your coat today? It's very warm.
- 9 I (not/work) this week. I'm on holiday.
- 10 I want to lose weight. I (not/eat) anything today.

1.2 Complete these sentences using one of these verbs:

get become change rise improve fall increase

You don't have to use all the verbs and you can use some of them more than once.

Example: The population of the world **is rising** very fast.

- 1 The number of people without jobs at the moment.
- 2 He is still ill but he better slowly.
- 3 These days food more and more expensive.
- 4 The world Things never stay the same.
- 5 The cost of living Every year things are dearer.
- 6 George has gone to work in Spain. When he arrived, his Spanish wasn't very good but now it
- 7 The economic situation is already very bad and it worse.

1.3 Read this conversation between Brian and Steve. Put each verb into the correct form. The first one has already been done for you.

Brian and Steve meet in a restaurant:

Brian: Hello, Steve. I haven't seen you for ages. What (1) **are you doing** (you/do) these days?

Steve: I (2) (train) to be a shop manager.

Brian: Really? (3) (you/enjoy) it?

Steve: Yes, it's quite interesting. How about you?

Brian: Well, I (4) (not/work) at the moment, but I'm very busy.

I (5) (build) a house.

Steve: Really? (6) (you/do) it alone?

Brian: No, some friends of mine (7) (help) me.