

UNIT 3

Present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do)?

Before you study this unit, study Units 1 and 2.

a) Study this explanation and compare the examples:

<p>Present continuous (I am doing) Use the present continuous to talk about something which is happening at or around the time of speaking:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>The kettle is boiling. Can you turn it off, please? Listen to those people. What language are they speaking? 'Where's Tom?' 'He's playing tennis.' (you find a stranger in your room) What are you doing here? Silvia is in Britain for three months. She's learning English.</p> <p>Use the present continuous for a <i>temporary</i> situation: I'm living with some friends until I can find a flat. That machine isn't working. It broke down this morning.</p>	<p>Present simple (I do) Use the present simple to talk about things in general or things which happen repeatedly:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. Excuse me, do you speak English? Tom plays tennis every Saturday. What do you usually do at weekends? What do you do? (= What's your job?) Most people learn to swim when they are children.</p> <p>Use the present simple for a <i>permanent</i> situation: My parents live in London. They have been there for 20 years. That machine doesn't work. It hasn't worked for years.</p>
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b) Some verbs are used only in *simple* tenses. For example, you cannot say 'I am knowing'. You can only say I **know**. Here is a list of verbs which are not normally used in *continuous* tenses (but there are exceptions):

want	like	belong	know	suppose	remember
need	love	see	realise	mean	forget
prefer	hate	hear	believe	understand	seem

have (when the meaning is 'possess' – see also Unit 24)
think (when the meaning is 'believe')

- Do you **like** London? (*not* 'are you liking')
- He **doesn't understand**. (*not* 'he isn't understanding')
- These shoes **belong** to me. (*not* 'are belonging')
- What do you **think** Tom will do? (= What do you believe he will do?)
but: What are you **thinking** about? (= What is going on in your mind?)

UNIT 3 Exercises

3.1 In this exercise you have to decide whether the verbs in these sentences are right or wrong. Correct those which are wrong. The verb is underlined.

Examples: I don't know your telephone number.

Please don't make so much noise. I study.

RIGHT.....

WRONG - am studying.

- 1 Look! Somebody is climbing up that tree over there.
- 2 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about?
- 3 Are you believing in God?
- 4 Look! That man tries to open the door of your car.
- 5 The moon goes round the earth.
- 6 I'm thinking it would be a good idea to leave early.
- 7 The government is worried because the number of people without jobs is increasing.
- 8 I'm usually going to work by car.

3.2 Now you have to put the verb into the correct form, present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do).

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

How many languages does Tom speak (Tom/speak)?

This machine doesn't work (not/work). It hasn't worked for years.

- 1 I (not/belong) to a political party.
- 2 Hurry! The bus (come). I (not/want) to miss it.
- 3 The River Nile (flow) into the Mediterranean.
- 4 The river (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 5 (it/ever/snow) in India?
- 6 We usually (grow) vegetables in our garden but this year we (not/grow) any.
- 7 A: Can you drive?
B: No, but I (learn). My father (teach) me.
- 8 You can borrow my umbrella. I (not/need) it at the moment.
- 9 (at a party) I usually (enjoy) parties but I (not/enjoy) this one very much.
- 10 George says he's 80 years old but I (not/believe) him.
- 11 Ron is in London at the moment. He (stay) at the Hilton Hotel.
He usually (stay) at the Hilton Hotel when he's in London.

In these sentences think about whether the situation is temporary or permanent.

- 12 My parents (live) in Bristol. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where (your parents / live)?
- 13 She (stay) with her sister at the moment until she finds somewhere to live.
- 14 A: What (your father / do)?
B: He's a teacher, but he (not/work) at the moment.