

Present Continuous

Use, form and
exercises



FORM

- [am/is/are + present participle]
- Examples:
 - You **are watching** TV.
 - **Are you watching** TV?
 - You **are not watching** TV.

Positive	Negative	Question
I am speaking.	I am not speaking.	Am I speaking?
You are speaking.	You are not speaking.	Are you speaking?
We are speaking.	We are not speaking.	Are we speaking?
They are speaking.	They are not speaking.	Are they speaking?
He is speaking.	He is not speaking.	Is he speaking?
She is speaking.	She is not speaking.	Is she speaking?
It is speaking.	It is not speaking.	Is it speaking?

USE 1 Now

- Use the Present Continuous with Normal Verbs to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.
- Examples:
 - You **are learning** English now.
 - You **are not swimming** now.
 - **Are you sleeping?**
 - **I am sitting.**
 - **I am not standing.**
 - **Is he sitting or standing?**
 - They **are reading** their books.
 - They **are not watching** television.
 - What **are you doing?**
 - Why **aren't you doing** your homework?

USE 2 Longer Actions in Progress Now

- In English, "now" can mean: this second, today, this month, this year, this century, and so on. Sometimes, we use the Present Continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second.
- Examples:
 - I **am studying** to become a doctor.
 - I **am not studying** to become a dentist.
 - I **am reading** the book *Tom Sawyer*.
 - I **am not reading** any books right now.
 - **Are you working** on any special projects at work?
 - **Aren't you teaching** at the university now?

USE 3 Near Future

- Sometimes, speakers use the Present Continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.
- Examples:
 - I **am meeting** some friends after work.
 - I **am not going** to the party tonight.
 - **Is** he **visiting** his parents next weekend?
 - **Isn't** he **coming** with us tonight?

USE 4 Repetition and Irritation with "Always"

- The Present Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happens. Notice that the meaning is like Simple Present, but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb+ing."
- Examples:
 - She **is always coming** to class late.
 - He **is constantly talking**. I wish he would shut up.
 - I don't like them because they **are always complaining**.

REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs/ Mixed Verbs

- It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Present Continuous with these verbs, you must use Simple Present.
- Examples:
 - She **is loving** this chocolate ice cream. **Not Correct**
 - She **loves** this chocolate ice cream. **Correct**

Non-Continuous Verbs

- These verbs are usually things you cannot see somebody doing. These verbs are rarely used in continuous tenses. They include:
- **Abstract Verbs**
 - to be, to want, to cost, to seem, to need, to care, to contain, to owe, to exist...
- **Possession Verbs**
 - to possess, to own, to belong...
- **Emotion Verbs**
 - to like, to love, to hate, to dislike, to fear, to envy, to mind...
- Examples:
 - He **is needing** help now. **Not Correct**
 - He **needs** help now. **Correct**
 - He **is wanting** a drink now. **Not Correct**
 - He **wants** a drink now. **Correct**

Mixed Verbs

- The third group, called "Mixed Verbs," is the smallest group. These verbs have more than one meaning. In a way, each meaning is a unique verb. Some meanings behave like "Non-Continuous Verbs," while other meanings behave like "Normal Verbs."
- **Mixed Verbs**
 - to appear, to feel, to have, to hear, to look, to see, to weigh...
 - For more information and exercises:
<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/types.html>

ADVERB PLACEMENT

- The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.
- Examples:
 - You are **still** watching TV.
 - Are you **still** watching TV?