





Present Continuous

(I am doing)



Sarah 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. The action is not finished.
- **AM/IS/Are** + **ING** is the present continuous.
- I AM (=I'm)
- He/She/It IS
- We/You/They ARE
- **I am doing** smth = I'm in the middle of doing it; I've started doing it and haven't finished:
- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (**not** I try)
- Where is Mark? He **is having** shower. (**not** He has a shower)




Sometimes the action isn't happening at the time of speaking. For example:

- 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.

- You can use pc with **today/this week/this year** etc. (periods around now):
- - You **'re working** hard **today**.
- - Yes, I have a lot to do.

- This company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.



We use the pc when we talk about changes happening around now, especially with this words:

- Get/change/become/increase/rise/fall/grove/improve/begin/start
- Is your english **getting** better?
- The population of world **is increasing** very fast.
- The cost of living **is rising**. Every year things are more expensive.



Exercises

- (I/get) tired. I need rest
- The world (change). Things never stay the same.
- Tim (work) hard today. He's taken the day off.
- You can turn off the radio. (I/listen) to it.
- Polly and Sally have had an argument. (They/speak) to each other.



Answers




- I'm **getting** tired. I need a rest
- The world **is changing**. Things never stay the same.
- Tim is working hard today. He's taken the day off.
- You can turn off the radio. I'm **not listening** to it.
- Polly and Sally have had an argument. They **are not speaking** to each other.



Present Simple

(I do)



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

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.
- He/she/it drives/works/does.

- We use the ps to talk about things in general. We use it to say that smth happens all the time repeatedly, or that smth is true in general:
- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- I usually **go** away at weekends.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.



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


- I **don't go** away very often.
- I come from Canada. Where **do** you come from?
- What **does** this world mean?

- In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb:
- What **do** you **do**? I work in shop.
- He is very lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.



We use the ps 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**.



Sometimes we do things by saying smth. For example, when you **promise** to do smth, you can say **I promise**

□ I promise I won't be late. (not I'm promising)

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

□ I won't tell anybody what you said. I promise.



Exercises



- (In restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal. (I/insist)
- Vegetarians (eat) meat.
- I've got a car, but I (use) it much.
- Where (Ricardo/come) from? From Cuba.
- Bad driving (cause) many accidents.



Answers



- (In restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal. I **insist**.
- Vegetarians **don't eat** meat.
- I've got a car, but I **don't use** it much.
- Where **does Ricardo come** from? From Cuba.
- Bad driving **causes** many accidents.



Present Simple and Present Continuous

(I do and I am doing)

Compare:

Present continuous

- The water **is boiling**. Can you turn it off?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- I **'m getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- We use the pc for temporary situations:
- I **'m living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.

Present Simple

- Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- It **doesn't rain** very much at summer.
- I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- We use the ps for permanent situations:
- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their times.



I always do and I'm always doing

- I always do (smth) = I do it every time:
- I always **go** to the work by car.

- I'm always doing has a different meaning. For example:
- I've lost my phone again. I'm **always losing** things.
- I'm **always losing** things = I lose things very often, perhaps too often, or more often than normal.



The following words are normally used
in present continuous:

- Like/want/need/prefer
- Know/realise/suppose/mean/understand/believe/remember
- Belong/fit/contain/consist/seem

- Do you understand what I mean?
- Anna doesn't seem very happy at the moment.




Think



- When **think** means “believe” or “have an opinion”, we don’t use the continuous:
- I **think** Mary is Canadian, but I’m not sure.
- What **do** you **think** about my plan? (= What is your opinion?)


- When **think** means “consider” the continuous is possible:
- Nicky **is thinking** of giving up her job. (= she considered it)



See/hear/smell/taste

- We normally use the ps with these verbs:
- Do you **see** the man over there?
- This room **smells**. Let's open a window.

- We often use can + see/hear/smell/taste:
- I **can hear** a strange noise. **Can** you **hear** it?



You can use the ps or pc to say how
smbd **looks** or **feels** now:

□ You **look** well today. Or You're
looking well today.

□ How **do** you **feel** now? Or How
are you **feeling** now?



He is selfish and He is being selfish

- He's **being** = He's behaving/acting. Compare:
- I can't understand why he's **being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
- (**being** selfish = behaving selfishly at the moment)

- He never think about other people. He **is** very selfish.
- (He is selfish in generally, not only at the moment.)



Exercises



- Look! The man (try) to open the door of your car.
- Rachel is in New York right now.(she/stay) at the park hotel.(She/always/stay) there when she's in New York.
- A:The car is broken down again.
- B:That car is useless. It (always/break down)
- (We/usually/grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year (we/not/grow) any.
- Don't put the dictionary away. (I/need) it.
- I (think) you should sell your car. (You/not/use) it very often.



Answers



- Look! The man **is trying** to open the door of your car.
- Rachel is in New York right now. She **is staying** at the park hotel. **She always**
- **stays** there when she's in New York.
- A:The car is broken down again.
- B:That car is useless. **It is always breaking** down.
- We usually grow vegetables in our garden, but this year **we are not growing** any.
- Don't put the dictionary away. **I need** it.
- I **think** you should sell your car. You **do not use** it very often.