

Present Continuous (I am doing)

A Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She's **driving** to work. (= She **is driving** ...)

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)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he's, etc.)	working
we/you/they	are	(= we're, etc.)	doing , etc.



B **I am doing** something = I started doing it, and I haven't finished. I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- "Where's Mark?" "He's **taking** a shower." (*not* He takes a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** anymore. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? **Are** you **enjoying** it?
- What's all that noise? What's **going** on? *or* What's **happening**?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm reading a really good book right now.
It's about a man who ...

Steve says "I'm reading ..." but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking.

He means that he has started reading the book but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- 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.

C You can use the present continuous with **today, this week, this year**, etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're **working** hard **today**. (*not* You work hard today)
- B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

getting	changing	increasing	rising	starting
becoming	improving	growing	falling	beginning

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **starting** to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)

Exercises

1.1 What's happening in the pictures? Choose from these verbs:

cross hide scratch ~~take~~ tie wave



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------|
| 1 | <u>She's taking</u> a picture. | 4 | his head. |
| 2 | He his shoelaces. | 5 | behind a tree. |
| 3 | the road. | 6 | to somebody. |

1.2 The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

1 Please don't make so much noise. 2 We need to leave soon. 3 I don't have anywhere to live right now. 4 I need to eat something soon. 5 They don't need their car anymore. 6 Things are not so good at work. 7 What they say isn't true. 8 We're going to get wet.	a I'm getting hungry. b They're lying. c It's starting to rain. d They're trying to sell it. e It's getting late. f I'm trying to work. g I'm staying with friends. h The company is losing money.	1 <u>f</u> 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
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1.3 Write questions. Use the present continuous.

- 1 What's all that noise? What's happening? (what / happen?)
- 2 What's the matter? (why / you / cry?)
- 3 Where's your mother? (she / work / today?)
- 4 I haven't seen you in ages. (what / you / do / these days?)
- 5 Amy is a student. (what / she / study?)
- 6 Who are those people? (what / they / do?)
- 7 I heard you started a new job. (you / enjoy / it?)
- 8 We're not in a hurry. (why / you / walk / so fast?)

1.4 Put the verb into the correct form, affirmative (**I'm doing**, etc.) or negative (**I'm not doing**, etc.).

- 1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
- 2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) anymore.
- 3 You can turn off the music. (I / listen) to it.
- 4 Kate called last night. She's on a trip with friends. (She / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
- 5 Andrew started evening classes recently. (He / learn) Japanese.
- 6 Jason and Sarah have had an argument and now (they / speak) to each other.
- 7 The situation is already very bad, and now (it / get) worse.
- 8 Tim (work) today. He's taken the day off.
- 9 (I / look) for Allison. Do you know where she is?
- 10 The washing machine has been repaired. (It / work) now.
- 11 (They / build) a new hospital. It will be finished next year.
- 12 Ben is a student, but he's not very happy. (He / enjoy) his courses.
- 13 (The weather / change). I think it's going to rain.
- 14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. (He / start) to get bored with it.

Simple Present (I do)

A Study this example situation:



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

but He **drives** a bus. (He is a bus driver.)

drive(s), work(s), do(es), etc., is the *simple present*:

I/we/you/they	drive/work/do , etc.
he/she/it	drives/works/does , etc.

B We use the simple present to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- Nurses **take** care of patients in hospitals.
- I usually **leave** for work at 8 a.m.
- The earth **goes** around the sun.
- The coffee shop **opens** at 7:30 in the morning.

We say:

I **work** but he **works** you **go** but it **goes**
 they **teach** but my sister **teaches** I **have** but he **has**

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

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

do	I/we/you/they	work?	I/we/you/they	don't	work
does	he/she/it	drive?	he/she/it	doesn't	drive
		do?			do

- I come from Japan. Where **do** you **come** from?
- I **don't travel** a lot.
- What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do**, etc.):

- "What **do** you **do**?" "I work in a store."
- He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help us.

D We use the simple present to say how often we do things:

- I **get** up at 8:00 **every morning**.
- How often** do you **go** to the dentist?
- Julia **doesn't drink** coffee **very often**.
- Michael usually **plays** tennis two or three times a week.

E I **promise** / I **apologize**, etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you promise to do something, you can say "I **promise** ..."; when you suggest something, you can say "I **suggest** ...":

- I **promise** I won't be late.
- "What do **you suggest** I do?" "I **suggest** that you ..."

In the same way we say: I **agree** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **refuse** ... / I **suppose** ... , etc.

Exercises

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) close(s) connect(s) go(es) live(s) speak(s) take(s)

- 1 Tanya *speaks* German very well.
- 2 Ben and Jack to the same school.
- 3 Bad driving many accidents.
- 4 The museum at 4:00 on Sundays.
- 5 My parents in a very small apartment.
- 6 The Olympics place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julia *doesn't drink* (not / drink) coffee very often.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I have a car, but I (not / use) it very much.
- 4 Where (Maria / come) from? Is she Colombian?
- 5 "What (you / do)?" "I'm an electrician."
- 6 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- 7 David isn't in very good shape. He (not / get) any exercise.
- 8 It (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long (it / take) you?

2.3 Complete the sentences using these verbs. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe eat flow ~~go~~ ~~grow~~ make rise tell translate

- 1 The earth *goes* around the sun.
- 2 Rice *doesn't grow* in cold climates.
- 3 The sun in the east.
- 4 Bees honey.
- 5 Vegetarians meat.
- 6 An atheist in God.
- 7 An interpreter from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who the truth.
- 9 The Amazon River into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Emily questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Emily plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often *do you play tennis* ?
- 2 Perhaps Emily's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Emily.
..... your sister ?
- 3 You know that Emily goes to the movies a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
..... ?
- 4 You know that Emily's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Emily.
..... ?
- 5 You're not sure if Emily speaks Spanish. You want to know. Ask her.
..... ?
- 6 You don't know where Emily's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Emily.
..... ?

2.5 Complete using the following:

I agree I apologize I insist I promise I recommend ~~I suggest~~

- 1 Mr. Evans is not in the office today. *I suggest* you try calling him tomorrow.
- 2 I won't tell anybody what you said.
- 3 (*in a restaurant*) You must let me pay for the meal.
- 4 for what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- 5 The new restaurant on Lake Street is very good. it.
- 6 I think you're absolutely right. with you.