

** THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS **

FORM

The present continuous tense is formed with the present tense of the auxiliary verb be + the present participle:

<u>Affirmative</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Interrogative</u>
I am working	I am not working	am I working?
you are working	you are not working	are you working?
he/she/it is working	he/she/it is not working	is he/she/it working?
we are working	we are not working	are we working?
you are working	you are not working	are you working?
they are working	they are not working	are they working?

Negative interrogative: *am I not working? are you not working? is he not working?*

CONTRACTIONS

<u>Affirmative</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Negativeinterrogative</u>
I'm working	I'm not working	aren't I working?
you're working	you're not/you aren't working	aren't you working?
he's working etc.	he's not/he isn't working etc.	isn't he working? etc.

Note the irregular contraction aren't I? for am I not?

Interrogative contractions: *am, is, are may be contracted* : Why's he working?
Where're you working?

THE SPELLING OF THE PRESENT PARTICIPLE

A/ When a verb ends in a single e, this e is dropped before ing: *argue, arguing hate, haling love, loving*

Except after **age, dye** and **singe**: *ageing dyeing singeing*
And verbs ending in **ee**: *agree, agreeing see, seeing*

B/ When a verb of one syllable has one vowel and ends in a single consonant, this consonant is doubled before **ing**: *hit, hitting run, running stop, stopping*

Verbs of two or more syllables whose last syllable contains only one vowel and ends in a single consonant double this consonant if the stress falls on the last syllable: *admit, admitting begin, beginning prefer, preferring*

A final **I** after a single vowel is, however, always doubled: *signal, signalling travel, travelling*, except in American English.

C/ ing can be added to a verb ending in **y** without affecting the spelling of the verb: *carry, carrying enjoy, enjoying hurry, hurrying*

D/ For verbs that end in -ie, change the ie to y before adding -ing:
die becomes **dying**

USES OF THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

A/ For an action happening now or around now: *It is raining. I am not wearing a coat as it isn't cold. Why are you sitting at my desk? I am reading a play by Shaw He is teaching French and learning Greek.*

When two continuous tenses having the same subject are joined by **and**, the auxiliary may be dropped before the second verb, as in the above example. This applies to all pairs of compound tenses:

C/ For a definite arrangement in the near future (the most usual way of expressing one's immediate plans): *I'm meeting Peter tonight. He is taking me to the theatre. Are you doing anything tomorrow afternoon? ~ Yes, I'm playing tennis with Ann.*

Note that the time of the action must always be mentioned, as otherwise there might be confusion between present and future meanings. Come and go, however, can be used in this way without a time expression.

D/ With always: *He is always losing his keys.*

This form is used, chiefly in the affirmative, for a frequently repeated action, usually when the frequency annoys the speaker or seems unreasonable to him.

VERBS NOT NORMALLY USED IN THE CONTINUOUS TENSES

A/ Verbs of the senses (involuntary actions): **feel, hear, see, smell**; also **notice** and **observe** (= notice),

B/ Verbs expressing feelings and emotions, e.g. **admire** (= respect), **adore, appreciate** (= value), **care for** (= like), **desire, detest, dislike, fear, hate, like, loathe, love, mind** (= care), **respect, value, want, wish**.

C/ Verbs of mental activity, e.g. **agree, appreciate** (= understand), **assume, believe, expect** (=think), **feel** (= think), **feel sure/certain, forget, know, mean, perceive, realize, recall, recognize, recollect, remember, see** (= understand), **see through someone** (= penetrate his attempt to deceive), **suppose, think** (= have an opinion), **trust** (= believe/have confidence in), **understand**.

D/ Verbs of possession: **belong, owe, own, possess**: *How much do I owe you?*

E/ The auxiliaries, except be and have in certain uses.

Exercise 1 : Rewrite the sentences using the short forms

We are reading a letter.
He is opening the window.

I am playing computer games.
She's dancing at the party.
They're drinking a cup of tea.
She is eating.
I am driving.
We are not riding.
You're telling great jokes.
She's not hurrying.

Exercise 2 : Rewrite the sentences using the negative forms.

We are playing a game.
I'm drawing a picture.
He is making pizza right now.
Susan and her brother are taking photos.
Dad is working in the kitchen.
he's selling fruit.
We are travelling in an old van.
I'm getting ready for school.
The thieves are robbing the bank. .
My father is smoking a cigarette.

Exercise 3 :

A) Write questions in present progressive.

Robin / to ride / his bike.
where / she / to go.
what / your mother / to do / now.
When / John / to go / to USA.
You / to work / on your project.

B) Ask for the information given in bold print.

Matthew is making a **mistake**.
Linda is knocking at the door.
They are flying **to Rome**.
I'm making **the new tree house** at the moment.
She is driving the Porsche **carefully**.

Exercise 4 :

A/ Use the words below to write sentences in present progressive.

He / to get / pretty nervous.
She / to write / a letter.
We / not / to work.
They / to argue.
Look! / The dog / to pee / on the carpet.
I / to meet / my friends tonight.

He / to travel / a lot.

The kids / to play / in the garden.

She / to enter / the house.

They / to tie / still.

B/ Use the following verbs to write sentences in the present continuous form.

1. fly.
2. run.
3. go.
4. fall.
5. drop.
6. write.
7. jog.
8. stop.
9. drive.
10. smile.
11. meet
12. talk.
13. take.
14. sit.
15. eat

Exercise 5 : put the verbs between brackets into present continuous form

1. You can't see Chris now. He (have) a bath.
2. today we (drink) tea.
3. I (remember) the answer.
4. I (wear) my glasses today, because there is an exam.
5. You can't take the newspaper. I (read) it right now.
6. She always (write) with his left hand.
7. We (believe) everything he says.
8. They (love) watching horror movies.
9. Sue (like) driving a lot.
10. (want) some cheese.
11. It (rain) very hard. you can't go out.
12. I (have) a pound now.
13. He (think) the test is easy.
14. She (think) about the question.