

# The present continuous

## Introduction



He's **eating** a hamburger.

## Definition

The present continuous is one of the two present tenses used in modern English. The other one is the **present simple**.

## Construction

The present continuous tense consists of:

subject + present simple of 'to be' + the present participle of another verb

I **am** going.

| Affirmative     | Negative 1          | Negative 2          | Interrogative     |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| I'm working     | I'm not working     | -----               | Am I working?     |
| You're working  | You're not working  | You aren't working  | Are you working?  |
| He's working    | He's not working    | He isn't working    | Is he working?    |
| She's working   | She's not working   | She isn't working   | Is she working?   |
| It's working    | It's not working    | It isn't working    | Is it working?    |
| We're working   | We're not working   | We aren't working   | Are we working?   |
| They're working | We're not working   | They aren't working | Are they working? |
|                 | They're not working |                     |                   |

## Uses

| Uses   | Examples   |
|--|--|
| To talk about something that <b>is</b> happening at the moment | <b>I'm studying</b> the present continuous.<br><b>It's raining</b> .<br><b>The phone's ringing</b> .<br><b>They're watching</b> TV.  |
| To talk about current changes                                  | The situation <b>is improving</b> .<br>House prices <b>are rising</b> .<br>The climate <b>is changing</b> .<br>My English <b>is getting</b> better.  |
| To describe a temporary situation                              | <b>I'm living</b> with my parents and <b>working</b> near their home at the moment but I want to move to London soon and get a job there<br><br><b>I'm travelling</b> to work by bus this week. Usually, I go by train but the drivers are on strike |

### Note that

It is the correct tense to use if you **are describing** a picture because we can imagine that it's **happening** now.



**They're dancing**. He's **wearing** glasses and he's **singing**. She's **wearing** a dress and she's **smiling**.

## Examples



He's **listening** to his favourite CD.



**Are** you **enjoying** your new job?



They're **painting** their bedroom walls.



Our sales figures **are** increasing.



Ben and Sue wear glasses but Ben **isn't** **wearing** his today.

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