

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
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To talk about something that **is happening** at the moment

I'm studying the present continuous.

It's raining.

The phone's **ringing**.

They're **watching** TV.

To talk about something that is in progress

I'm reading a really good book at the moment.

We're painting the kitchen.

He's **looking** for a new job.

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.

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.

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.

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