

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	They're not working	They aren't working	Are they working?

Uses

Uses	Examples
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 current changes	The situation is improving . House prices are rising . The climate is changing . My English is getting better.
To describe a temporary situation	I'm living with my parents and working near their home at the moment but I want to move to London soon and get a job there I'm travelling 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.

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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