

# 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	It's 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		
	working		

# Uses

Uses	Examples
To talk about something that <b>is happening</b> at the moment	<b>I'm studying</b> the present continuous. <b>It's raining.</b> <b>The phone's ringing.</b> <b>They're watching</b> TV.
To talk about current changes	The situation <b>is improving.</b> <b>House prices are rising.</b> <b>The climate is changing.</b> <b>My English 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 <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.

**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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