

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

In English we use the present continuous to describe an action that is in progress or happening at the same moment that we are speaking.

STRUCTURE: SUBJECT + TO BE + VERB in ING + COMPLEMENTIZER

Rules to change one verb to the present continuous.

1. When the verbs end in silent “e” we drop out the final “e” and we add “ing.”

Examples:

write → writing invite → inviting ride → riding

2. When the verbs end in a consonant preceded by a single vowel we duplicate the final consonant and add “ing” but there are some exceptions.

Examples:

swim → swimming sit → sitting run → running

3. When the verbs end in “y” just add “ing” for the progressive tense:

Examples:

play → playing study → studying cry → crying

4. When the verbs end in the diphthong “ie” it changes into “y” and we add “ing”.

Examples:

die → dying lie → lying dye → dying

Note: Do not use the following verbs in the progressive form:

(like, want, love, understand, know, have, sound, hate, need, hear, believe, smell, taste, wish, own).

These verbs are only used in simple present or simple past tense.

Examples:

Statement: We are **studying** at this moment.

Statement: They are **doing** their homework now.

Statement: He is **watching** television now.

To make a question we just have to move the **To Be** forms (am, is, are) to the beginning of the sentences.

Examples:

Statement: He is **standing** in front of us.

Question: Is he **standing** in front of us?

Affirmative answer: Yes, he is **standing** in front of us.

Negative answer: No, he is not **standing** in front of us.



Statement: They are **reading** a book now.
Question: Are they **reading** a book now?
Affirmative answer: Yes, they are **reading** a book now.
Negative answer: No, they aren't **reading** a book now.

Statement: You are **writing** in your notebook right now.
Question: Are you **writing** in your notebook right now?
Affirmative answer: Yes, we are **writing** in our notebook right now.
Negative answer: No, we are not **writing** in our notebook right now.

In this tense the most common question is: **What are you doing?**

And when we answer this question we have to use the verb that describes the action that we are carrying out in the present progressive, but sometimes it is possible to answer the questions with “doing” especially if we are doing mental activities, such as: (homework, reports, mathematics, exercise, business, etc.)

Examples:

Question: What are you doing?
Answer: I'm doing my homework.

Question: What is the teacher doing?
Answer: She's doing her reports.

Question: What is Sam doing?
Answer: He's doing his math.

TO BE + USED TO + “ING”

We use this structure when we want to say that we are accustomed to doing something which is nothing new for us.

Examples:

I am used to waking up at 6:00 o'clock in the morning.

They are used to working late.

We are used to being alone.

My mother is used to living in New York.

This structure is also possible in negative form:

Examples:

I am not used to working too many hours.

They are not used to living alone.

I am not used to living in this kind of weather.

My father is not used to listening to rock music.

We are not used to staying up late.



Get Smart!

Quiz A



Use the correct form of the verb given in parenthesis to fill in the banks. Use the simple present tense or the present continuous tense. Don't forget to pay attention to spelling.

She _____ the newspaper every day. (read)

She **reads** the newspaper.

She **is** _____ the newspaper now. (read)

She **is reading** the newspaper now.

1. We _____ English every week. (study)
2. We **are** _____ English right now. (study)
3. They **are** _____ a book now. (read)
4. They always _____ books. (read)
5. She **is** _____ English at this moment. (teach)
6. She _____ English at Brownsville Community College. (teach)
7. He **is** _____ a shower right at this moment. (take)
8. He usually _____ a shower in the morning (take)
9. You **aren't** _____ your homework. (do)
10. You never _____ your homework. (do)
11. It **is** _____ now. (rain)
12. It _____ a lot in the fall. (rains)
13. Sheila _____ two kilometers every day. (run)
14. Sheila **is** _____ through the park right now. (run)
15. My father **is** _____ the street now. (cross)
16. My father always _____ the street when the light is red. (cross)
17. The students **are** _____ an essay right now. (write)
18. The students in my class always _____ essays. (write)
19. I sometimes _____ breakfast in the morning. (have)
20. I **am** _____ breakfast right now. (have)

21. She **is** _____ for the bus at the corner. (wait)
22. She _____ for the bus at the corner most of the time. (wait)
23. We **are** _____ at the table for dinner. (sit)
24. We never _____ in front of the TV at dinner time. (sit)
25. Mike **is** _____ on the phone right now. (talk)
26. Mike _____ on the phone all the time. (talk)
27. My friends are _____ in the pool. (swim)
28. My friends _____ in the pool every day. (swim)
29. I always _____ up early. (get)
30. I **am** _____ up early tomorrow because I have an interview. (get)
31. She wants to _____ me finish my homework. (help)
32. She **is** _____ me finish my homework. (help)
33. Sheila **is** _____ to the radio. (listen)
34. Sheila _____ to the radio as soon as she gets up. (listen)
35. My friend Peter _____ to school on time. (come)
36. My friend Peter **is** _____ coming to school right now. (come)
37. We **are** _____ out favorite TV show. (watch)
38. We usually _____ our favorite show on TV at night. (watch)
39. I **am** _____ my hair right now. (wash)
40. I _____ my hair every morning before I go to work. (wash)
41. They never _____ to the movies. (go)
42. They **are** _____ to the movies with their friends. (go)
43. I am in New York. I am _____ at the Four Seasons Hotel. (stay)
44. When we go to New York, we _____ at The Four Seasons Hotel. (stay)

45. He is _____ food at the supermarket. (buy)
46. He _____ food at the supermarket twice a month. (buy)
47. We _____ to finish this exercise. (need)
48. She _____ to find another job. (want)
49. I _____ this soup. It tastes delicious. (like)
50. They _____ what you are saying. Don't say too much. (understand)