

UNIT 11 Present continuous (*I am leaving*)

Form (1)

A

The present continuous, or present progressive, is the tense used to describe an action which is happening at or around the moment of speaking. It's formed using the auxiliary **be** and the **-ing** form of the main verb.

Affirmative

I	am ('m)	
You	are ('re)	
He / She / It	is ('s)	leaving for Paris.
We	are ('re)	
You	are ('re)	
They	are ('re)	

Full form: Subject + **am / is / are** + verb in the **-ing** form
 Short form: Subject + **'m / 's / 're** + verb in the **-ing** form

The short form is the most common.

Hurry up. We're waiting for you.
They're playing really well.

B

The addition of the suffix **-ing** to the base form of the verb involves some spelling changes.

- We double the final consonant for:
 - verbs with one syllable that end in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel
 run → running; sit → sitting
 - BUT: meet → meeting (two vowels before the first consonant)
 melt → melting (two final consonants)
 - verbs with two syllables with the stress on the second syllable, which end in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel
 refer → referring; transmit → transmitting
 - BUT: suffer → suffering (the stress is on the first syllable);
 repeat → repeating (two vowels before the final consonant);
 report → reporting (two final consonants)
 - verbs that end in -l preceded by a single vowel (only in British English)
 travel → travelling (Am. traveling); counsel → counselling (Am. counseling)
 - BUT: feel → feeling (two vowels before the final consonant)
- The **-e** is dropped in verbs which ending with a silent **-e**.
 come → coming; leave → leaving (the **-e** isn't pronounced)
 BUT: see → seeing; be → being (the **-e** is pronounced)
- The final diphthong **-ie** becomes a **y**.
 Lie → lying; die → dying

Note: The final **y** doesn't change when adding **-ing**:
 cry → crying; study → studying; buy → buying; stay → staying

Student's notes

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EXERCISES

Present continuous – Form (1) **UNIT 11**

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: –

11.1 Complete the sentences with *am, is* or *are*.

- 1 Peter walking the dog at the moment.
- 2 We visiting some local ancient monuments.
- 3 Ron learning how to juggle.
- 4 Be quiet! I trying to concentrate!
- 5 The girls reading in their room.
- 6 Quincy watching TV in the living room.
- 7 Wally and I going to night school to learn Japanese.
- 8 My friend's brother studying martial arts.

11.2 Rewrite sentences 1-4 from exercise 1 using the short form.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

11.3 Complete the sentences with the present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 They around the country looking at castles. (travel)
- 2 Phill how to sail a laser dinghy. (learn)
- 3 Ben and I to music from South America. (dance)
- 4 We to trace our family history. (try)
- 5 Martin and his dad with some friends. (fish)
- 6 The boys mountain biking with their youth club. (go)
- 7 I on my bed thinking about what to do next! (lie)
- 8 Ellie at the Moon through her telescope. (look)

11.4 Complete the text with the present continuous of the verbs in the box.

read try listen cook ~~happen~~ watch put have

Lots of things ⁽¹⁾..... in the Robinson household. Mum ⁽²⁾..... an exotic meal in the kitchen and Sammy, the family's dog, ⁽³⁾..... her with great interest! Dad ⁽⁴⁾..... some new cupboards together in the living room – but he ⁽⁵⁾..... a few problems! Rose ⁽⁶⁾..... all about digital cameras because she wants to take up photography as a hobby. Colin and his friend Sam ⁽⁷⁾..... to music in Colin's room. Grandma ⁽⁸⁾..... to find somewhere quiet to sit and have a little sleep!

Teacher's observations