



# Present Continuous

## Inglés

## LEARNING PATHWAY

- With this worksheet, you will put into practice and consolidate your knowledge on **present continuous**.
- This topic is part of the unit related to tenses, as illustrated in the following figure.

English Grammar

Tenses

Present  
Tenses

Present  
Continuous

## INDEX

### INTRODUCTION

### CONTENTS

Present Continuous

How to form the affirmative

How to form the negative

How to form the interrogative

Present simple vs Present continuous

### SOLVED ACTIVITIES

### ANSWER KEY

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### ANSWER KEY

### SUMMARY

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

## INTRODUCTION

As we have stated in previous worksheets, verbs in English come in three tenses: past, present, and future. We are going to make use of the present tense, specifically the **present continuous**, to talk about **continued actions** that are **happening** in the **present moment** (Hall & Barduhn, 2016). Its affirmative, negative, and interrogative forms present some particularities that will be covered in this worksheet, as well as a comparative table with the main differences between the **present simple** and **present continuous** tenses.

## CONTENTS

We will use the present continuous to talk about things that **are** (or **not**) happening **now** or **around now**. As its name states, we use it to talk about **actions in the present** or things that are **still going on** or **happening now** (Swan & Walter, 2001). Additionally, we may use the present continuous either to talk about things you have planned to do, or about things that are going to happen in the future (Seaton & Mew, 2007).

### How to form the affirmative

I	-----	am	—————▶	singing
You	-----	are	—————▶	singing
He	-----	is	—————▶	singing
She	-----			
It	-----			
We	-----	are	—————▶	singing
They	-----	are	—————▶	singing

As you can see above, present continuous is formed with verb **'to be'** (am, you, and are,) depending on the subject, primarily. Secondly, if you pay attention to the main verb, it ends in **'-ing'**. That is also a characteristic of verbs in progressive tenses. We use contractions (**I'm** John, John **isn't** an engineer, etc.) in conversation and informal writing (Swan & Walter, 2001).

In most cases, you will only need to add the -ing ending, as in the examples presented before. However, there are some **exceptions**:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For most verbs</li> </ul>	+ -ing → sleeping (sleep)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When verbs end in -e</li> </ul>	-e disappears + -ing → hoping (hope)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When verbs end in -ie</li> </ul>	-ie changes to y + -ing → dying (die)

## Doubling

There are some situations in which we are expected to **double consonants** in order to create the present continuous tense. Look at the following examples given by Swan & Walter (2001):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One vowel + one consonant</li> </ul>	Double consonant + -ing stopping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two vowels</li> </ul>	Do not double waiting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two consonants</li> </ul>	Do not double wanting or helping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only double in STRESSED syllables</li> </ul>	beGIN → beginning (* Capital letters are used to illustrate the stressed syllable.

## How to form the negative

In order to form present continuous in its negative form, we need to add 'not' after verb 'to be.'

I	am <b>not</b>	singing
You	are <b>not</b>	singing
He	is <b>not</b>	singing
She		
It		
We	are <b>not</b>	singing
They	are <b>not</b>	singing



### Important

As with the affirmative form, contractions are also possible in negative present continuous (**isn't**, **aren't**, etc.) Always remember that you can use them in **informal contexts** and **conversations**.

## How to form questions

As stated by Hall & Barduhn (2016), in order to form **questions** in the present continuous, the first step is to **swap the order** of subject and verb to be. Therefore, verb should be at the beginning of the sentence.

Am	I	singing?
Are	you	singing?
Is	he	singing?
	she	
	it	
Are	we	singing?
Are	they	singing?



## Important

When questions have long subjects, the word order does not change (Swan & Walter, 2001).  
e.g. Are **teachers, parents and students** sharing the same floor?

## Present Simple vs Present Continuous

While in the previous worksheet you learned about present simple; this time you learned about present continuous. A comparative table between both tenses is presented below:

Present Simple	Present Continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We use the present simple to talk about things in <b>general</b>, that occur <b>all the time</b> or <b>sometimes</b> (Hall &amp; Barduhn, 2016). We can also make use of it to talk about things that are always true or repeatedly (Swan &amp; Walter, 2001). e.g. <b>I walk.</b></li><li>• One particularity about present simple is that questions with verb 'be' are formed differently from other verbs (Hall &amp; Barduhn, 2016):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Are you a teacher?</li><li>○ Do you teach?</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We use the present continuous to talk about things that are occurring <b>now</b>, at the <b>time of speaking</b> (Hall &amp; Barduhn, 2016). As opposed to present simple, which is used to refer to situations that occur with frequency, present continuous is used to talk about <b>temporary situations</b>, or repeated actions <b>AROUND</b> the present moment. e.g. <b>I'm walking.</b></li><li>• Another difference between present simple and continuous is that present continuous questions are always formed in the <b>same way</b> (Hall &amp; Barduhn, 2016):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Are you teaching?</li></ul></li></ul>

## SOLVED ACTIVITIES

The following activities will help you to put into practice what you learned throughout this worksheet, giving you the opportunity to identify which area you need to reinforce.

- Read comprehensively.
- Go over and use this worksheet to support you.
- Do not look at the answer key until you finish the activities on your own. Challenge yourself!
- If you have any questions on this topic, write them down and share them with your tutor.

Good job!

1. Make the **affirmative** present continuous.

e.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football with my friends.  
I'm playing football with my friends.

- a. Where are the children? They \_\_\_\_\_ still \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep).
- b. She \_\_\_\_\_ (give) a lesson at this moment.
- c. He \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) in the pool right now.
- d. They \_\_\_\_\_ (ride) a bike around the park.

To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called '**How to form the affirmative.**' You will be able to correctly use the present continuous in its affirmative form after finishing them.

2. Make the **negative** present continuous.

e.g. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not / drive) the car.  
They **are not driving** the car.

- a. Chris and Han \_\_\_\_\_ (not / attend) new year's ceremony.
- b. Anna \_\_\_\_\_ (not / bake) cookies at this moment.
- c. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / hide) anything.
- d. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not / travel) by bus. We are travelling by car.

To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called '**How to form the negative.**' You will be able to correctly use the present continuous in its negative form after finishing them.

3. Make the **interrogative** present continuous.

e.g. Sue is helping her little sister with her homework.  
**Is Sue helping** her little sister with her homework?

- a. The kids are playing outside.

---

- b. Dexter is writing a letter to Emma.

---

- c. Tom and Eric are having fun together.

---

- d. John is really good at playing volleyball.

---



To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called 'How to form the interrogative.' You will be able to correctly use the present continuous in its interrogative form after finishing them.

## ANSWER KEY

1.
  - a. Where are the children? They **are** still **sleeping**.
  - b. She **is giving** a lesson at this moment.
  - c. He **is swimming** in the pool right now.
  - d. They **are riding** a bike around the park.
  
2.
  - a. Chris and Han **are not attending** new year's ceremony.
  - b. Anna **is not baking** cookies at this moment.
  - c. I **am not hiding** anything.
  - d. We **are not travelling** by bus. We are travelling by car.
  
3.
  - a. **Are** the kids **playing** outside?
  - b. **Is** Dexter **writing** a letter to Emma?
  - c. **Are** Tom and Eric **having** fun together?
  - d. **Is** John really good at **playing** volleyball?

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Here, a series of **fill-in-the-blank** and **put-into-the-correct-order activities** are presented. You will have to complete the blank spaces with the **required information**. This activity will help you to confirm how much you have learned so far. If you have any questions, read, and go over the text once again. If you still have doubts, please take notes, and share them with your tutor. Remember: the main objective of this worksheet is that **you** learn. Good job!

1. Write the present continuous in its **affirmative** or **negative** form.

- a. We / learn / Spanish now. (+) \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Tom is at the university. / He / study / biology. (+) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Sarah / talk / on the phone. (-) \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Children / play / in the park. (-) \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Rose / sing / a fantastic song. (+) \_\_\_\_\_
- f. The boys / play / basketball after school. (+) \_\_\_\_\_
- g. She / talk / to his best friend. (-) \_\_\_\_\_
- h. I / leave / work early today. (+) \_\_\_\_\_
- i. My father / come / home. (+) \_\_\_\_\_
- j. Not many workers / participate / in sports. (-) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write the simple past in its **affirmative** form. Use the verbs in the box. You can use them just **ONCE**.

do	shop	get	rain	wear
practice	watch	try	take	read

- a. You \_\_\_\_\_ a nap at the moment.
- b. She \_\_\_\_\_ a new dress. She looks beautiful.
- c. I \_\_\_\_\_ an interesting story.
- d. The company \_\_\_\_\_ well this month.
- e. I \_\_\_\_\_ TV right now. I'm reading a book.
- f. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ to fix the broken leg of the chair.
- g. Anna and Emma \_\_\_\_\_ at the market.
- h. He \_\_\_\_\_ to become a professional football player.
- i. They \_\_\_\_\_ better at playing videogames.
- j. It \_\_\_\_\_ at this moment. I love rainy days.

3. Write the present continuous in its **interrogative** form.

- a. watching / are / movie / again? / horror / you / a

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. today? / early / you / are / leaving

\_\_\_\_\_

- c. the students / soccer / are / or / playing / volleyball?

\_\_\_\_\_

- d. taking / now? / exam / the teacher / math / is / the

\_\_\_\_\_

- e. neighbors / your / moving out? / are

\_\_\_\_\_

- f. party? / a / are / planning / you

\_\_\_\_\_

- g. you / lessons? / aren't / driving / taking

\_\_\_\_\_

- h. too / I / speaking / am / much?

\_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

1. Write the present continuous in its **affirmative OR negative** form.

- a. We / learn / Spanish now (+): **We are learning Spanish now.**
- b. Tom is at the university. He / study / biology. (+): **He is studying biology.**
- c. Sarah / talk / on the phone. (-): **Sarah isn't talking on the phone.**
- d. Children / play / in the park. (-): **Children aren't playing in the park.**
- e. Rose / sing / a fantastic song. (+): **Rose is singing a fantastic song.**
- f. The boys / play / basketball after school. (+): **The boys are playing basketball after school.**
- g. She / talk / to her best friend. (-): **She is not talking to her best friend.**
- h. I / leave / work early today. (+): **I'm leaving work early today.**
- i. My father / come / home. (+): **My father is coming home.**
- j. Not many workers / participate / in sports. (+): **Not many workers are participating in sports.**

2. Write the simple continuous in its **affirmative OR negative** form. Use the verbs in the box.  
You can use them just **ONCE**.

do	shop	get	rain	wear
practice	watch	try	take	read

- a. You **are taking** a nap at the moment.
- b. She **is wearing** a new dress. She looks beautiful.
- c. I **am reading** an interesting story.
- d. The company **is doing** well this month.
- e. I **am not watching** TV right now. I'm reading a book.

- f. My brother **is trying** to fix the broken leg of the chair.
- g. Anna and Emma **are shopping** at the market.
- h. He **is practicing** to become a professional football player.
- i. They **are getting** better at playing videogames.
- j. It **is raining** at the moment. I love rainy days.

4. Write the present continuous in its **interrogative** form.

- a. Are you watching a horror movie again?
- b. Are we leaving early today?
- c. Are the students playing soccer or volleyball?
- d. Is the teacher taking the math exam or not?
- e. Is your sister doing her homework right now?
- f. Are your neighbors moving out?
- g. Are you planning a party?
- h. Aren't you taking driving lessons?
- i. Am I speaking too much?

## SUMMARY

To summarize, we are going to use the **present continuous** tense to talk about **actions in the present**, or things that **are still going on** or **happening now** (Seaton & Mew, 2007). In its **affirmative form**, we need to combine the verb 'to be' with -ing verbs (e.g., *she is singing*). For the **negative form**, on the other hand, we will add '**not**' between the verb 'to be' and the main verb (the one with the -ing ending, for example: *she is not singing*). Lastly, for **questions**, we are going to swap the order of the 'be' verb (e.g., *is she singing?*).



### Key words

Grammar; Tenses; Present Tense; Present Continuous

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hall, D., & Barduhn, S. (2016). English for everyone: A comprehensive visual reference. DK, Dorling Kindersley, USA.
- Swan, M., & Walter, C. (2001). The good grammar book: A grammar practice book for elementary to lower-intermediate students of English. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

# ¿Quieres recibir orientación para optimizar tu estudio en la universidad?

CONTAMOS CON PROFESIONALES EXPERTOS EN EL APRENDIZAJE QUE TE PUEDEN ORIENTAR

[SOLICITA NUESTRO APOYO](#)



[Sitio Web de CIMA](#)



[Ver más fichas](#)



[Solicita más información](#)