

19 Present continuous

19.1 Present continuous — affirmative

I	am 'm	doing a project.
We You They	are 're	playing the piano. having a shower. cleaning the house.
He She It	is 's	getting dressed. putting the clothes in the washing machine.

- a We use the present continuous for actions that are happening now.
- b We make the present continuous tense with *to be* (*am, is, are*) and the present participle *-ing*.
- c Note these spelling rules for the present participle:
 - 1 With most verbs, add *-ing*.
clean — *cleaning*
play — *playing*
do — *doing*
 - 2 With verbs ending in *e*, remove the *e* and add *ing*.
have — *having*
dance — *dancing*
write — *writing*
 - 3 With verbs with a short vowel + one consonant, double the consonant and add *ing*.
set — *setting*
sit — *sitting*
get — *getting*

Translate
She's washing her hair.
They're wearing jeans.

19.2 Present continuous — negative

I	am not 'm not	getting dressed. playing the piano.
We You They	are not aren't	skiing . setting the table. working .
He She It	is not isn't	washing clothes. swimming .

Translate
He isn't sleeping.
They aren't having lunch.

19.3 Present continuous — questions

Am	I	speaking English?
Are	we you they	doing your homework?
	he she it	having a shower? writing a letter? setting the table? going to school? listening to the radio?
Where is she going?		
What is he doing?		
Why are they talking?		

To make questions in the present continuous, we put *Am, Is* or *Are* in front of the subject. For *Wh* questions add the question word at the beginning.

Translate
Are you wearing trainers?
Are they dancing?

19.4 Present continuous — short answers

Yes,	I	am.
	we you they	are.
	he she it	is.
No,	I'm	not.
	we you they	aren't.
	he she it	isn't.

In short answers we only use the verb *to be*, NOT the present participle.

- The verb *to be* is in the full form.
- Is she wearing jeans?*
Yes, **she is**. (NOT *Yes, she is wearing*.)
- Are you doing your homework?*
Yes, **I am**. (NOT *Yes, I am doing*.)
- Is he doing his homework?*
No, **he isn't**. (NOT *No, he isn't doing*.)
- Are you going home?*
No, **I'm not**. (NOT *No, I'm not going*.)

Translate
Is she going to school? Yes, she is.
Are you doing the washing-up? Yes, I am.
Are they playing basketball? No, they aren't.

PRACTICE 19

* **A** Write the present participles of the verbs in the correct columns.

write ✓ swim make get look
put like have run sing

+ -ing	double letter + -ing	minus e + -ing
.....	writing
.....
.....
.....

* **B** Put the verbs into the present continuous. Use short forms where you can.



Melissa's sitting (1sit) in the living room with her dad. They..... (2watch) a film on television called *Dinosaur Adventure*. Look at the dinosaurs. They..... (3sleep) in their cave. A boy..... (4go) into the cave. He..... (5look for) the dinosaurs.

The dinosaurs (6get up).
Melissa's dad..... (7hide) behind the sofa!

The boy..... (8give) the dinosaurs some food. The dinosaurs (9eat) the food. The boy..... (10smile).

* **C** Look and write the names.



Ronaldo



Beyoncé Knowles



Tom Cruise



Adriana Karembeu

- 1 He isn't wearing a jacket. Ronaldo
- 2 He isn't wearing shorts.
- 3 He isn't playing football.
- 4 He isn't sitting.
- 5 He isn't running.
- 6 She isn't singing.
- 7 She isn't wearing a dress.
- 8 She isn't dancing.
- 9 She isn't smiling.
- 10 She isn't wearing jeans.