

VERBS, PRESENT CONTINUOUS

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

The **present continuous** is used to indicate that the **actions are happening currently and continuously**. Present continuous is formed with “**be**” plus a **present participle**. The present participle is the verb plus the suffix **-ing**.

Present Simple

We go to school.

She studies English.

Present Continuous

We **are going** to school.

She **is studying** English.

Spelling Rules for Present Participle

1/ If a verb has a short vowel that is followed by a consonant then the consonant is doubled before **-ing** is added.

run -> running

sit -> sitting

fit -> fitting

jog -> jogging

shop -> shopping

cut -> cutting

mop -> mopping

wed -> wedding

drop -> dropping

bid -> bidding

stop -> stopping

tip -> tipping

2/ If a verb has a long vowel and a consonant that is followed by **-e** then the **-e** is dropped before **-ing** is added.

slide -> sliding

ride -> riding

trace -> tracing

race -> racing

sneeze -> sneezing

shape -> shaping

tape -> taping

love -> loving

live-> living

joke -> joking

dance-> dancing

3/ If a verb ends with **-ie** then the **-ie** is changed to **-y** before **-ing** is added.

die -> dying

tie -> tying

lie -> lying

vie -> vying

Practice1: Complete the sentence with the verb given in parentheses in present continuous.

1. His friend _____ with him to work. (to car-pool)
2. She _____ the floor. (to mop)
3. Education _____ my future. (to shape)
4. They _____ tennis right now. (to play)
5. She _____ for dinner. (to set up)
6. He _____ shelves at the supermarket. (to stock up)
7. Everyone _____ for her attention. (to vie)
8. I _____ good feelings when he is around. (to have)
9. He _____ his parents over for dinner. (to have)
10. I _____ myself. (to be)

11. He _____ his beard. (to trim)
12. The phone _____ continuously. (to buzz)
13. Traveling expenses _____ into his earnings. (to cut)
14. He _____ a big profit. (to net)
15. She _____ the package. (to tape)
16. They _____ polite. (to be)
17. Uncle Bill _____ on his reserved energies. (to tap)
18. She _____ the way he _____. (to approve, to behave)
19. The bees _____ by the thousands. (to die)
20. They _____ on the grass, gazing at the stars. (to lie)

Answers1:

1. His friend **is car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **is mopping** the floor.
3. School **is shaping** my future.
4. They **are playing** tennis right now.
5. She **is setting up** for dinner.
6. He **is stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **is vying** for her attention.
8. I **am having** good feelings when he is around.
9. He **is having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **am being** myself.
11. He **is trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **is buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **are cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **is netting** a big profit.
15. She **is taping** the package.
16. They **are being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **is tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **is approving** the way he **is behaving**.
19. The bees **are dying** by the thousands.
20. They **are lying** on the grass, gazing at the stars.

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS NEGATIVE

For negative statement in the present continuous, “**not**” is added after “**be**”.

I **am studying** algebra -> I **am not studying** algebra.

He **is making** an important decision -> He **is not making** an important decision.

She **is working** at the pharmacy -> She **is not working** at the pharmacy.

The dog **is napping** -> The dog **is not napping**.

They **are having** a lot of second thoughts -> They **are not having** any second thought.

We **are running** late -> We **are not running** late.

Practice2: Change the sentences to present continuous negative statements.

1. His friend **is car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **is mopping** the floor.
3. School **is shaping** my future.
4. They **are playing** tennis right now.
5. She **is setting up** for dinner.
6. He **is stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **is vying** for her attention.
8. I **am having** good feelings when he is around.
9. He **is having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **am being** myself.
11. He **is trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **is buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **are cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **is netting** a big profit.
15. She **is taping** the package.
16. They **are being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **is tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **is approving** the way he is behaving.
19. The bees **are dying** in the thousands.
20. They **are lying** on the grass, gazing at the stars.

Answers2:

1. His friend **is not car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **is not mopping** the floor.
3. School **is not shaping** my future.
4. They **are not playing** tennis right now.
5. She **is not setting up** for dinner.
6. He **is not stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **is not vying** for her attention.
8. I **am not having** good feelings when he is around.
9. He **is not having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **am not being** myself.
11. He **is not trimming** his beard.

12. The phone **is not buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **are not cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **is not netting** a big profit.
15. She **is not taping** the package.
16. They **are not being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **is not tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **is not approving** the way he is behaving.
19. The bees **are not dying** in the thousands.
20. They **are not lying** on the grass, gazing at the stars.

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS

For questions with the present continuous, the **verb "to be"** and **subject** switch position.

Tom **is doing** homework -> **Is** Tom **doing** homework?

I **am making** good of my promise -> **Am** I **making** good of my promise?

She **is working** on her project -> **Is** She **working** on her project?

We **are having** a great time -> **Are** we **having** a great time?

They **are exhibiting** their works -> **Are** they **exhibiting** their works?

We **are betting** on his success -> **Are** we **betting** on his success?

Practice3: Change the sentences to present continuous questions.

1. His friend **is car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **is mopping** the floor.
3. School **is shaping** my future.
4. They **are playing** tennis right now.
5. She **is setting up** for dinner.
6. He **is stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **is vying** for her attention.
8. I **am having** good feelings when he is around.
9. He **is having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **am being** myself.
11. He **is trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **is buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **are cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **is netting** a big profit.
15. She **is taping** the package.

16. They **are being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **is tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **is approving** the way he is behaving.
19. The bees **are dying** by the thousands.
20. They **are lying** on the grass, gazing at the stars.

Answer3:

1. **Is** his friend **car-pooling** with him to work?
2. **Is** she **mopping** the floor?
3. **Is** school **shaping** my future?
4. **Are** they **playing** tennis right now?
5. **Is** she **setting up** for dinner?
6. **Is** he **stocking up** shelves at the supermarket?
7. **Is** everyone **vying** for her attention?
8. **Am I having** good feelings when he is around?
9. **Is** he **having** his parents over for dinner?
10. **Am I being** myself?
11. **Is** he **trimming** his beard?
12. **Is** the phone **buzzing** continuously?
13. **Are** traveling expenses **cutting** into his earnings?
14. **Is** he **netting** a big profit?
15. **Is** she **taping** the package?
16. **Are** they **being** polite?
17. **Is** uncle Bill **tapping** on his reserved energies?
18. **Is** she **approving** the way he is behaving?
19. **Are** the bees **dying** by the thousands?
20. **Are** they **lying** on the grass, gazing at the stars?