

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS: QUICK REFERENCE

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When do we use the present continuous	Examples
To describe an <u>action</u> that is <u>happening at the time of speaking</u>	Sh! Be quiet! I'm talking on the telephone.
To describe a <u>situation</u> or <u>action</u> that is in the <u>process of happening</u> over a longer period of time	He is reading a really good book at the moment.

Vocabulary often used with the present continuous	Examples
Now	I'm watching the film on the tv right now
Today	It's raining today
At the moment	They're studying towards their accountancy exams at the moment
This morning/afternoon/evening/week/month/year	He's playing football this week

Verb Formation

The present continuous is formed with the auxiliary verb 'to be' followed by the 'ing' form of the main verb:

	+	-	?
I	am working	am not/'m not working	Am I working?
You	are working	are not/aren't working	Are you working?
He/she/it	is working	is not /isn't working	Is he/she/it working?
We	are working	are not/aren't working	Are we working?
They	are working	are not/aren't working	Are they working?

Example Questions	Long answer	Short Answer
Am I sweating?	No you're not sweating	No you're not
Are you listening?	Yes. Don't worry. I'm listening!	Yes I am
Is she doing the schedule?	Yes she's doing the schedule right now	Yes she is
Is he meeting the clients?	No. He's not meeting the clients. He's still here!	No he's not
Are they making an appointment?	Yes they're making an appointment	Yes they are