

The Present Continuous / Progressive :

John is in his car. He is in his way to work.

He **is driving** to work
 This mean she **is driving** now: “at the time of speaking”
 This is the present continuous.

The form of the present continuous tense

The verb *to be* (in the simple present) verb + **ing**

1/ The affirmative forms of the present continuous:

I	am	eating.
	'm	
You, we, they	are	
	're	
He, she, it	is	
	's	

2/ The interrogative forms of the present continuous

Am	I	eating?
Are	you, we, they	
Is	he, she, it	

3/ The negative forms of the present continuous

I	am not	eating.
	'm not	
You, we, they	are not	
	aren't	
He, she, it	is not	
	isn't	

The use of the present continuous tense

§The present continuous is used to talk about actions happening at the time of speaking.

Example:

* Where is Mary? She **is having** a bath. (Not she has a bath)

* What **are you doing** at the moment in front of your screen? Don't you know? Well ... you **are reading** this lesson. You **are learning** English.

*The present continuous can also be used when an action has started but hasn't finished yet.

Example:

· I **am reading** a book; it's a nice book. (It means = I am not necessarily reading it; I started reading it but I haven't finished it yet.)

- to describe an action or event in the future, which has already been planned or prepared: ***We're going on holiday tomorrow. I'm meeting my boyfriend tonight. Are they visiting you next winter?***
- to describe a temporary event or situation: ***He usually plays the drums, but he's playing bass guitar tonight. The weather forecast was good, but it's raining at the moment.***
- with "always, forever, constantly", to describe and emphasise a continuing series of repeated actions: ***Harry and Sally are always arguing! You're constantly complaining about your mother-in-law!***

Special verbs

There are verbs which are normally not used in the present continuous.

Examples:

be, believe, belong, hate, hear, like, love, mean, prefer, remain, realize, see, seem, smell, think, understand, want, wish

These verbs are called **stative verbs** in contrast to **action verbs** (also referred to as 'dynamic verbs') such as '*work, play, eat, etc.*'

It's not correct to say:

He is wanting to buy a new car.*

You must say:

He wants to buy a new car.