

## Present continuous (I am doing)

## a Study this example situation:

Ann is in her car. She is on her way to work.

She is **driving** to work.

This means: She is driving now, at the time of speaking.

This is the *present continuous* tense:

I am (= I'm)	}	driving
he/she/(it) is (= he's, etc.)		
we/they/you are (= we're, etc.)		



We use the present continuous when we talk about something that is happening at the time of speaking:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm studying.** (*not* I study)
- "Where is Peggy?" "She's **taking** a bath." (*not* she takes)
- Let's go out now. **It isn't raining** anymore.
- (*at a party*) Hello, Ann. **Are you enjoying** the party? (*not* do you enjoy)

## b We also use the present continuous when we talk about something that is happening around the time of speaking, but not necessarily exactly at the time of speaking. Study this example situation:

- Tom and Ann are talking and having coffee in a cafe. Tom says: "**I'm reading** an interesting book at the moment. I'll lend it to you when I've finished it."

Tom is not reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has begun the book and hasn't finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it. Here are some more examples:

- Maria **is studying** English at a language school. (*not* studies)
- Have you heard about Brian? He **is building** his own house. (*not* builds)

But perhaps Maria and Brian are not doing these things exactly at the time of speaking.

c We often use the present continuous when we talk about a period around the present. For example: **today**, **this week**, **this season**, etc.:

- "You're **working** hard **today**." "Yes, I have a lot to do."
- Tom **isn't playing** football **this season**. He wants to concentrate on his studies.

## d We use the present continuous when we talk about changing situations:

- The population of the world **is rising** very fast. (*not* rises)
- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* does . . . get)

# UNIT **2**

## Simple present (I do)

**a** Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver. But now he is asleep in bed.  
So:

He is *not* driving a bus (he is asleep).

But: He **drives** a bus.

This is the *simple present* tense:

I/we/you/they **drive**  
he/she/(it)      **drives**

**b** We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

<b>do</b> I/we/you/they <b>does</b> he/she/it	<b>work?</b>	<b>I/we/you/they</b> <b>don't</b> <b>he/she/it</b> <b>doesn't</b>	<b>work</b>
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- Excuse me, **do** you **speak** English?
- “Would you like a cigarette?” “No, thanks. I **don't smoke**.”
- **What does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in Alaska.

We use the simple present to talk about things in general. We are not thinking only about the present. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general. It is not important whether the action is happening at the time of speaking:

- The earth **goes** around the sun.
- Nurses **take care** of patients in hospitals.
- In Canada, most stores **close** at 6:00 p.m.

Remember that we say **he/she/it -s**. Don't forget the **s**:

- I **work** in a bank. Barry **works** in a department store.

**c** We use the simple present when we say how often we do things:

- I get up at 8:00 **every morning**. (*not* am getting)
- **How often** **do** you go to the dentist?
- Ann **doesn't go out** **very often**.
- In the summer, Tom **usually plays** tennis **twice a week**.

**d** Note that we say “Where **do** you **come** from?” (= Where are you from?):

- Where **do** you **come** from? (*not* Where are you coming from?)
- He **comes** from Japan. (*not* He is coming from Japan.)

## b *Simple present with a future meaning*

We use the simple present when we are talking about timetables, schedules, etc. (for example, public transportation, movies):

- What time **does** the movie **begin**?
- The train **leaves** Boston at 7:25 a.m. and **arrives** in Washington, D.C., at 3:41 p.m.
- The football game **starts** at 2:00.
- Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

But we do not usually use the simple present for personal arrangements:

- What time **are** you **meeting** Ann? (*not do you meet*)

## UNIT 1 Exercises

### 1.1 Put the verb into the correct form.

*Examples:* Please don't make so much noise. I **am studying**..... (study).

Let's go out now. It **isn't raining**..... (not/rain) anymore.

Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**.. (they/speak)?

1. Please be quiet. I ..... (try) to concentrate.
2. Look! It ..... (snow).
3. Why ..... (you/look) at me like that? Did I say something wrong?
4. You ..... (make) a lot of noise. Can you be a little bit quieter?
5. Excuse me, I ..... (look) for a phone booth. Is there one near here?
6. (*at the movies*) It's a good movie, isn't it? ..... (you/enjoy) it?
7. Listen! Can you hear those people next door? They ..... (yell) at each other again.
8. Why ..... (you/wear) your coat today? It's very warm.
9. I ..... (not/work) this week. I'm on vacation.
10. I want to lose weight. I ..... (not/eat) anything today.

### 1.2 Complete these sentences using one of these verbs:

get    become    change    rise    improve    fall    increase

*You don't have to use all the verbs and you can use some of them more than once.*

*Example:* The population of the world ...**is rising**..... very fast.

1. The number of people without jobs ..... at the moment.
2. He is still sick, but he ..... better slowly.
3. These days food ..... more and more expensive.
4. The world ..... . Things never stay the same.
5. The cost of living ..... Every year things are more expensive.
6. George has gone to work in Spain. At first, his Spanish wasn't very good, but now it .....
7. The economic situation is already very bad, and it ..... worse.

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**1.3** Read this conversation between Brian and Steve. Put each verb into the correct form.

Brian and Steve meet in a restaurant.

Brian: Hello, Steve. I haven't seen you for ages. What (1) *are you doing*..... (you/do) these days?

Steve: I (2) ..... (work) in a department store.

Brian: Really? (3) ..... (you/enjoy) it?

Steve: Yeah, it's OK. How about you?

Brian: Well, I (4) ..... (not/work) at the moment, but I'm very busy.

I (5) ..... (build) a house.

Steve: Really? (6) ..... (you/do) it alone?

Brian: No, some friends of mine (7) ..... (help) me.

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**2.1** Put the verb into the correct form.

Examples: Water ..... *boils* ..... (boil) at 100 degrees Celsius.

George ... *doesn't go* ..... (not/go) to the movies very often.

How many languages .. *do you speak*..... (you/speak)?

1. The swimming pool ..... (open) at 9:00 and ..... (close) at 6:30 every day.
2. What time ..... (the banks / close) here?
3. I have a car, but I ..... (not/use) it very often.
4. How many cigarettes ..... (you/smoke) a day?
5. "What ..... (you/do)?" "I'm an electrical engineer."
6. "Where ..... (your father / come) from?" "He ..... (come) from Mexico."
7. It ..... (take) me an hour to get to work. How long ..... (it/take) you?
8. I ..... (play) the piano, but I ..... (not/play) very well.
9. I don't understand the word "deceive." What ..... ("deceive" / mean)?

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**2.2** Read these sentences and correct them. The English is correct but the information is wrong.

Write two correct sentences each time.

Example: The sun goes around the earth. *The sun doesn't go around the earth.*  
*The earth goes around the sun.*

1. The sun rises in the west. ....
2. Mice catch cats. ....
3. Carpenters make things from metal. ....
4. The Amazon River flows into the Pacific Ocean. ....

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**2.3** Use these sentences to make questions. Begin your questions with the word(s) in parentheses ( . . ).

Examples: Tom plays tennis. (How often?) *How often does Tom play tennis?....*  
I jog in the morning. (What time / usually?) *What time do you usually jog?....*

1. Ann watches television. (How often?) How often .....
2. I write to my parents. (How often?) .....
3. I have dinner in the evening. (What time / usually?) .....
4. Tom works. (Where?) .....
5. I go to the movies. (How often?) .....
6. People do stupid things. (Why?) .....
7. The car breaks down. (How often?) .....