

Unit (1)

Present continuous (I am doing)

1- Form of the Tense :-

am/is/are + -ing is the present continuous:

he/she/it + is + Verb +ing

we/you/they + are + Verb + -ing

I +am+ Verb + -ing

(= I'm) (= he's etc.) (= we're etc.) driving working doing etc.

Examples:

- Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work. She's driving to work. (= She is driving ...)

2- Uses of Present Continuous:-

1- We use present continuous when I am doing something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

Examples:

- Please don't make so much noise. I am trying to work. (not I try).
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He is having a shower.' (not He has a shower).
- Let's go out now. It isn't raining any more. (not It doesn't rain) How's your new job?
- Are you enjoying it? What's all that noise? What's going on? or What's happening?

2- Sometimes we use the present continuous for the action is not happening at the time of speaking.

For example:-

- Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says: I'm reading a really good book at the moment. It's about a man who ... (Steve says 'I'm reading ...' but he is not reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it).
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian. (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking).
- Some friends of mine are building their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

2- We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way: getting, becoming, changing, improving, starting, beginning, increasing, rising, falling, growing...etc.

For examples :-

- Is your English getting better? (not Does your English get better).
- The population of the world is increasing very fast. (not increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm starting to enjoy it now. (not I start).

Adverbs Used with present Continuous:-

You can use the present continuous with today / this week / this year etc. (periods around now)

For examples :-

- You're working hard today. (not You work hard today).
- The company I work for isn't doing so well this year.