

### 1 Some examples of the **present continuous** (be + -ing):

*I'm reading a good book at the moment.*

*She isn't working at this office today.*

*What are you doing now?*

### 2 Forms of the **present continuous**:

#### POSITIVE

**I am / 'm starting**

**you/we/they are / 're starting**

**he/she/it is / 's starting**

#### NEGATIVE

**I am not / 'm not starting**

**you/we/they are not / 're not / aren't starting**

**he/she/it is not / 's not / isn't starting**

#### QUESTIONS

**am I starting**

**are you/we/they starting**

**is he/she/it starting**

### 3 The **-ing** form:

For most verbs, add **-ing**:

**work → working**

**play → playing**

For verbs ending **-e**, take away **-e** and add **-ing**:

**take → taking**

**write → writing**

For many verbs ending with one vowel and one consonant, double the last letter and add **-ing**:

**run → running**

**sit → sitting**

(For more information on the **-ing** form, see p. 130.)

## Grammar in action

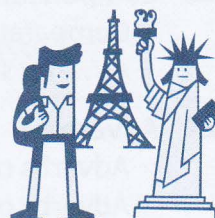
- 1 We use the **present continuous** to talk about actions and describe situations at the present moment:

*What are you doing at the moment? ~ I'm sitting on the sofa. It's raining outside.*



- 2 We use the **present continuous** for actions and situations in the present period of time, but not at this exact moment:

*What's Jack doing these days? ~ He's travelling around the world. He's visiting lots of countries.*



- 3 We use the **present continuous** for present situations that are temporary or different from usual. This example describes a change in someone's usual routine:

*Kathy has an office but she's working at home today.*

## A What I'm doing now

Alice is on a train. Complete what she says using the present continuous and the words in brackets. Use short forms if possible.

- 0 I'm sitting on a train. (I/sit)
- 1 ..... a cup of coffee. (I/drink)
- 2 ..... the station now. (We/leave)
- 3 ..... to Manchester. (The train/go)
- 4 ..... to a meeting. (I/travel)
- 5 What ..... at the moment? (you/do)
- 6 Me? ..... a phone call to you! (I/make)



## B The big match

Complete the descriptions of the football match using the words in brackets and the present continuous forms of the correct verbs from the box.

leave run blow talk wear look shine celebrate play

- 0 Good afternoon. I'm talking to you from the National Stadium. (I)
- 1 It's a lovely day at the stadium. .... and it's warm. (The sun)
- 2 ..... out onto the field. (The teams)
- 3 ..... white shirts and Wales are in red. (The England players)
- 4 ..... well and it's a good game. (Both teams)
- 5 ..... happy. It's 1-0 to England. (The England fans)
- 6 It's half-time. .... the field. (The players)
- 7 Another goal for England and ..... (the players)
- 8 ..... his whistle and it's the end of the game. (The referee)

## C News of friends

Tom and Rose are talking about people they know. Complete their conversation using the present continuous and the words in brackets. Use short forms.

- TOM How's Michael?
- ROSE He's fine. He's working.<sup>0</sup> (He/work) in Italy at the moment.
- TOM Really? .....<sup>1</sup> (What/he/do) there?
- ROSE .....<sup>2</sup> (He/spend) a year at his company's office in Rome.  
 .....<sup>3</sup> (He/learn) Italian and .....<sup>4</sup> (he/have) fun.
- TOM And what about Olivia?
- ROSE .....<sup>5</sup> (She/live) in a different flat now. And .....<sup>6</sup>  
 (she/not go out) with Frank any more. In fact, .....<sup>7</sup> (they/not talk)  
 to each other now.
- TOM Oh dear. Poor Frank.
- ROSE He's fine. ....<sup>8</sup> (He/enjoy) himself. ....<sup>9</sup> (He/not sit)  
 at home alone. ....<sup>10</sup> (He/take) lots of girls to bars and night clubs.
- TOM Oh, I see. Lucky Frank!

## D Changes in my town

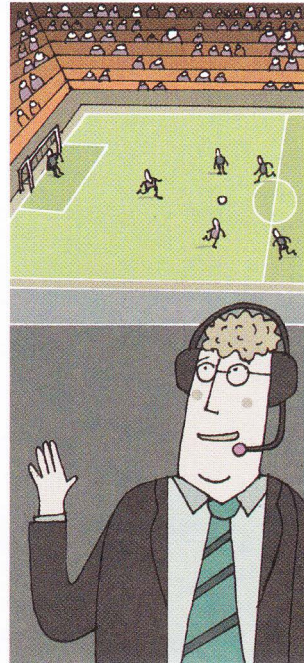
Complete this report about changes in a town using the present continuous and the correct verbs from the box.

not use talk go tell not do change cause move not listen  
 not travel get

My town is changing.<sup>0</sup> a lot. The population .....<sup>1</sup> bigger because  
 people .....<sup>2</sup> from the countryside to the town. This .....<sup>3</sup>  
 traffic problems. People .....<sup>4</sup> public transport very much and they  
 .....<sup>5</sup> on bikes. Too many cars .....<sup>6</sup> into the town centre.  
 The authorities .....<sup>7</sup> people to stop using their cars so much, but  
 people .....<sup>8</sup>. People .....<sup>9</sup> about the problem but they  
 .....<sup>10</sup> anything to solve it.

If you are *celebrating*  
 because of  
 something, you are  
 feeling:

- A** very sad about it  
**B** very angry about it  
**C** very happy about it.



# Present continuous

## Talking about the future

- 4 We also use the **present continuous** to talk about the **future**:

*I'm meeting some friends tonight.*  
*Jane is starting a new job next week.*  
*What are you doing next weekend?*

(For more information on future verb forms, see unit 6 on p. 22 and unit 17 on p. 66.)

### Grammar in action

- 4 We use the **present continuous** for fixed, arranged, and organized actions. These actions are certain to happen in the future.

*I'm going on holiday tomorrow.*  
*I'm catching the 8.30 flight.*



## E My plans next week

Look at Zena's schedule for next week and complete her description of her plans, using the present continuous. Use short forms.

<b>Monday</b>	start new course 9 a.m., go to Main Hall Principal gives talk attend lectures rest of day	<b>Friday</b>	write essay in library have meeting with tutor																																				
<b>Tuesday</b>	we take test we go on trip to History Museum (leave 2 p.m., arrive back 5 p.m.)	<b>Saturday</b>	morning, go shopping with Alex afternoon, play tennis with Pam go to concert, Morris Hall																																				
<b>Wednesday</b>	play for college basketball team no college work to do	<b>Sunday</b>	do nothing! stay at home, take it easy																																				
<b>Thursday</b>	evening, cook meal for Sam and Olga (eat 8.30 p.m.) watch film at home	<b>April</b> <table><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
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On Monday morning, I'm starting<sup>0</sup> a new course. At 9 a.m., .....<sup>1</sup>  
to the Main Hall and .....<sup>2</sup> a talk about this course. After that,  
.....<sup>3</sup> lectures for the rest of the day.

On Tuesday morning, .....<sup>4</sup> a test. In the afternoon, .....<sup>5</sup>  
on a trip to the History Museum. ....<sup>6</sup> the college at 2 p.m. and  
.....<sup>7</sup> back at the college at 5 p.m.

On Wednesday, .....<sup>8</sup> for the college basketball team.  
.....<sup>9</sup> any college work that day.

On Thursday evening, .....<sup>10</sup> a meal for Sam and Olga.  
.....<sup>11</sup> at 8.30 p.m. and then .....<sup>12</sup> a film at home.

On Friday, .....<sup>13</sup> an essay in the library and then .....<sup>14</sup> a  
meeting with my tutor.

On Saturday morning, .....<sup>15</sup> shopping with Alex. In the afternoon,  
.....<sup>16</sup> tennis with Pam and in the evening .....<sup>17</sup> to a  
concert at the Morris Hall.

On Sunday, .....<sup>18</sup> anything. ....<sup>19</sup> at home and  
.....<sup>20</sup> it easy all day.

## F The college party

Tara and Leon are talking on the phone. Complete their conversation using the present continuous and the words in brackets.

TARA Are you busy at the moment?

LEON Yes, *I'm trying* <sup>0</sup> (I/try) to finish some work. <sup>1</sup> (I/do) an assignment and <sup>2</sup> (I/find) it very difficult. What <sup>3</sup> (you/do)?

TARA <sup>4</sup> (I/get) ready for the party tonight. <sup>5</sup> (I/leave) in about twenty minutes. <sup>6</sup> (The taxi/come) for me at 7.30 p.m.

LEON Well, <sup>7</sup> (I/not go), unfortunately. I've got too much work to do. <sup>8</sup> (Who/go) to this party?

TARA Everyone. <sup>9</sup> (We/celebrate) the end of the exams. <sup>10</sup> (A band/play) and about 120 <sup>11</sup> (people/come).

LEON Well, <sup>12</sup> (I/stay) here and <sup>13</sup> (I/work) all evening. And then <sup>14</sup> (I/go) to bed.



## G My life in London

Complete this email from Carmen to her friend, using the present continuous and the correct verbs from the box. Use short forms.

go not miss study learn take have visit practise stay  
happen treat do look not study make

Hi

As you know, I *'m staying* <sup>0</sup> in London with a family. I <sup>1</sup> at a local college and I <sup>2</sup> a really good time. Everyone <sup>3</sup> me very well and I <sup>4</sup> lots of new friends. I <sup>5</sup> home at all because I <sup>6</sup> so many fantastic things.

At college, I <sup>7</sup> a lot of English and of course I <sup>8</sup> my English with the family. When I <sup>9</sup>, I <sup>10</sup> all sorts of places with the family. For example, on Saturday they <sup>11</sup> me to a theme park and next week we <sup>12</sup> to a very famous old castle, somewhere outside London. I <sup>13</sup> forward to that.

Let me know what <sup>14</sup> with you.

Carmen

**OVER TO YOU** Now go to page 122.