

Lesson 6:

Present Continuous Tense

1. Definition and Uses of Present Continuous

The present continuous tense describes actions or events that:

1. **Are happening right now** (at the moment of speaking):
 - *I am reading a book.*
 2. **Are temporary in nature:**
 - *He is living with his grandparents this summer.*
 3. **Indicate future arrangements or plans:**
 - *We are traveling to Paris next week.*
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2. Structure of Present Continuous

The present continuous is formed using the **subject + auxiliary verb** (*am, is, are*) + **base verb + -ing**.

a. Affirmative Form

Rule:

- Singular Subjects (*He, She, It*) → Use **is**.
- Subject "I" → Use **am**.
- Plural Subjects (*They, We, You*) → Use **are**.

Examples:

1. *He (read) a novel.*
 - **Answer:** He is reading a novel.
2. *I (write) a letter.*
 - **Answer:** I am writing a letter.
3. *They (play) in the park.*
 - **Answer:** They are playing in the park.

b. Negative Form

To make the sentence negative, place **not** after the auxiliary verb.

Rule: Subject + Auxiliary Verb (*am/is/are*) + **not** + Base Verb + **-ing**

Examples:

1. *She (work) now.*
 - **Answer:** She is not working now.
2. *We (watch) a movie.*
 - **Answer:** We are not watching a movie.
3. *I (clean) my room.*
 - **Answer:** I am not cleaning my room.

c. Interrogative Form

To form a question, move the auxiliary verb to the beginning of the sentence.

Rule: Auxiliary Verb (*am/is/are*) + Subject + Base Verb + **-ing** + ?

Examples:

1. *Ali (play) football?*
 - **Answer:** Is Ali playing football?
 2. *You (study) for the exam?*
 - **Answer:** Are you studying for the exam?
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3. Spelling Rules for Present Continuous

These rules ensure the correct spelling when forming the present continuous tense.

1. Drop the final "e" if the verb ends with it.

When the base verb ends in e, remove the e before adding **-ing**.

- **Examples:**
 - **Make** → **Making**
He is making a cake.
 - **Write** → **Writing**
She is writing a letter.
 - **Drive** → **Driving**
They are driving to the city.

2. Double the final consonant if it is preceded by a single vowel and is stressed.

If the last consonant is preceded by a single vowel and the stress is on the last syllable, double the final consonant before adding **-ing**.

- **Examples:**
 - **Run** → **Running**
He is running in the park.
 - **Sit** → **Sitting**
She is sitting on the chair.
 - **Plan** → **Planning**
They are planning their vacation.

3. Do not double the consonants w, x, y.

These letters are exceptions and are **not doubled**, even if preceded by a single vowel.

- **Examples:**
 - **Play** → **Playing**
The children are playing outside.
 - **Grow** → **Growing**
The plants are growing fast.
 - **Fix** → **Fixing**
He is fixing the car.
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4. Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present continuous include:

- *Now*
- *At this moment*
- *Right now*
- *Today*
- *At present*

Examples:

1. *He (cook) dinner (now).*
 - **Answer:** He is cooking dinner now.
 2. *They (study) (at this moment).*
 - **Answer:** They are studying at this moment.
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5. Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. **Using the wrong auxiliary verb:**
 - Incorrect: *He are playing football.*
 - Correct: *He is playing football.*
2. **Forgetting to add "-ing" to the verb:**
 - Incorrect: *They are play football.*

- Correct: *They are playing football.*
 - 3. **Overusing the tense inappropriately:**
 - Incorrect: *I am understanding you now.*
 - Correct: *I understand you now.* (Use present simple for stative verbs.)
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6. Practice Questions

Rewrite the sentences:

1. Original: *The children are eating lunch.*
 - Question: _____
Answer: Are the children eating lunch?
2. Original: *I am reading a book.*
 - Negative: _____
Answer: I am not reading a book.

Correct the errors:

1. Incorrect: *He am going to the store.*
 - Correct: _____
Answer: He is going to the store.
 2. Incorrect: *They is singing now.*
 - Correct: _____
Answer: They are singing now.
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