

Present Continuous and the Phone Thief

Present continuous is used to describe things that are happening right *now*.

For example: "*I am learning English now.*"

The structure is *verb be (am/is/are) + verb+ing*.

For example: "*We are (verb be) reading (verb+ing) a worksheet about present continuous.*"

For 'I' we use 'am', for 'he/she/it' we use 'is', and for 'we/they/you' we use 'are.'

For example: "*He is talking, and we are listening.*"

The negative structure is *verb be (am/is/are) + not+ verb+ing*.

For example: "*I am not talking on my phone now.*"

 1. Look at the picture below and write 5 sentences about what the people are doing.



- 1) *The chef is yelling*
- 2) *The couple at the sign are waiting*
- 3) *The cat is stealing a fish*
- 4) *The old man is drinking*
- 5) *The waiter in the corner is sleeping*

Present Continuous Questions

Present continuous closed questions (yes or no questions) have the structure *verb be* (am/is/are) + subject (I, you, we, etc.) + verb+ing.

For example: *"Are you listening to the teacher?"* or *"Is he working now?"*

Present continuous open questions have the same structure, but we put question words such as 'what', 'who', 'where', 'how', and 'why' at the start.

For example: *"What are you eating?"* or *"Who is he talking to?"*

2. Complete the questions below using present continuous and the verb in brackets.

- a) What *are* you *doing* right now? (do)
- b) *Are* you *reading* a book at the moment? (read)
- c) Where *is* he *going* today? (go)
- d) *Is* Jack *sleeping* at the moment? (sleep)
- e) They have a car, why *are* they *walking*? (walk)
- f) Why *is* she *laughing*? (laugh)
- g) *Is* it *raining*? (rain)
- h) What *is* the man in the white hat *stealing*? (steal)
- i) *Is* the dog *barking*? (bark)
- j) What *is* the man in the black hat *doing*? (do)
- k) Who *is* the worker *calling*? (call)



3. Pairwork: ask and answer the last 4 questions from exercise 2 about the picture above.

Present Continuous Contractions

When we are speaking in present continuous, the verb be is often shortened.

For example: "I am leaving." becomes "I'm leaving."

"He is running." becomes "He's running."

"They are watching." becomes "They're watching."



4. Complete the sentences using contractions and the verb in brackets.

- a) She **'s watching** (watch) TV at the moment.
- b) They **'re not working** (not/work) today, it's a weekend.
- c) Tom **'s playing** (play) video games.
- d) I **'m driving** (drive) at the moment, I can't talk on the phone.
- e) It **'s not raining** (not/rain) anymore.
- f) We **'re staying** (stay) at a hotel this week.
- g) He **'s not listening** (not/listen) to the teacher, he will not learn anything.



5. Complete the call that the worker from page 2 makes to the police using present continuous.

Store employee: "Hello police? Please help, a man **is stealing** (steal) phones from my shop!"

Officer Dave: "Oh.... Mmm... OK that sounds bad... delicious... ummm, what **is he wearing** (wear)?"

Store employee: I'm sorry, **are you eating** (eat) something?

Officer Dave: What? No, of course I **am not eating** (not/eat) anything! I **am working** (work) at the moment, that would be unprofessional!

Store employee: Ok, sorry. The thief **is wearing** (wear) a white hoodie, a black cap, and he is carrying (carry) a black bag. Please come quickly! He **is taking** (take) everything!

Officer Dave: Ok, sure... but what's that noise in the background?

Store employee: Oh, that's my dog, she **is barking** (bark) at the thief. Please come quickly, he **is leaving** (leave) the store now!

Officer Dave: Ok, what's your address?

Store employee: 55 Wattle Road, near the supermarket.

Officer Dave: Ok, I **am coming** (come) now, I will see you soon.

6. Student A write 4 present continuous questions (open or closed) about picture A, student B write 4 present continuous questions (open or closed) about picture B.

For example: "What is the boy in the black cap painting?"

A)



- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

B)



- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)



7. Now ask and answer your questions with a partner



8. Finish the story from the pictures using your own words. Try to use present continuous several times.
