

Present continuous tense

1. Description

The **present continuous** can be considered as the *true* present as it is used, among other things, to express actions which **are taking place** at the moment of speaking.

- I **am reading** this grammar rule.

It can also be used to describe a situation which is not as permanent as the **simple present**.

- I **am working** from home this week. (exceptionally this week)

2. Affirmative form

The **present continuous** uses the *auxiliary to be* in the simple present form + the *present participle* of the main verb. (The present participle is the verb ending in *ing*)

All sentences below are actions that are happening at the time of speaking.

- He **is walking** home from work.
- She **is buying** a new pair of shoes.
- They **are talking** on the phone.
- We **are watching** TV.
- It **is raining** again.

3. Negative form

As with all other English verb structures, it is the auxiliary which takes the negative form using *not*. Let's use the example with the verb **to work**.

I **am working** (affirmative) // I **am not working** (negative)

She **is working** (affirmative) // She **isn't working** (negative)

4. Interrogative form

It is the auxiliary and the pronoun or noun which are inverted to form the interrogative.

In closed questions (requiring a yes / no answer), the auxiliary opens the question.

- **Is it working** ? Yes, it **is** / No, it **isn't**.
- **Are you coming** with us? Yes I **am** / No, I'**m not**.