

Grammar Review

Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is used to talk about events happening right now, events in process, planned future events, a before and after structure and with a change in state.

Subject	Verb to Be	Present Participle
I	am	reading
you	are	reading
he/she/it	is	reading
we	are	reading
they	are	reading

In the affirmative, we use the SuBEP structure: subject, verb to be (affirmative) and the present participle. We can also contract the verb to be and the subject together.

Subject	Verb to Be (-)	Present Participle
I	am not	reading
you	are not	reading
he/she/it	is not	reading
we	are not	reading
they	are not	reading

In the negative, we use the same SuBEP structure, but the verb to be is used in the negative form. We can also contract the negative form of the verb to be.

Verb to Be	Subject	Present Participle
Am	I	reading?
Are	you	reading?
Is	he/she/it	reading?
Are	we	reading?
Are	they	reading?

There are two question forms in the present continuous. QuBESuP, if you use a question word, and BESuP, without a question word.

Question	Verb to Be	Subject	Present Participle
What	am	I	reading?
	are	you	reading?
	is	he/she/it	reading?
	are	we	reading?
	are	they	reading?

The short response is yes or no, plus the subject and then the verb to be.

Response	Subject	Verb to Be
Yes	I	am
	you	are
	he/she/it	is
	we	are
	they	are

Response	Subject	Verb to Be
No	I	am not
	you	are not
	he/she/it	is not
	we	are not
	they	are not

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

- Normal rule (+ING): **drink** → **drinking**
- CVC rule (double last consonant +ING): **cut** → **cutting**
Exceptions: last letter W, Y or stress on first syllable (+ING only) **draw** → **drawing**
- E rule (eliminate E +ING): **drive** → **driving**
Exceptions: EE Ending (+ING only) **see** → **seeing**
- IE rule (eliminate IE + Y +ING): **die** → **dying**
- C rule (+ K + ING): **picnic** → **picnicking**

Pronunciation can be /ɪŋ/ /ɪn/ or /ən/. The ING is never stressed, always the infinitive part.

KEYWORDS

Always, still constantly, forever

These words have a negative effect and go in between the verb to be and the present participle.
E.g. *He is always complaining.*

Now, even now, any longer, anymore, no longer, this season/month/year, at this moment/time can go at the beginning or the end of the sentence. E.g. *This year, we are learning English OR We are learning English this year.*