

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.*

Grammar Review

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

The present perfect continuous tense is used to talk about a duration of time that started in the past and is unfinished, temporary situations and events that have recently finished in the past but directly impact the present situation.

Subject	Have Been	Present Participle
I	have been	talking
you	have been	talking
he/she/it	has been	talking
we	have been	talking
they	have been	talking

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

Subject	Have Been (-)	Present Participle
I	have not been	talking
you	have not been	talking
he/she/it	has not been	talking
we	have not been	talking
they	have not been	talking

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

Question	Have	Subject	Been	Present Participle
Where	have	I	been	talking?
	have	you	been	talking?
	has	he/she/it	been	talking?
	have	we	been	talking?
	have	they	been	talking?

There are two question forms. QuHaSuBEP, if you use a question word, and HaSuBEP, without a question word.

Have	Subject	Been	Present Participle
Have	I	been	talking?
Have	you	been	talking?
Has	he/she/it	been	talking?
Have	we	been	talking?
Have	they	been	talking?

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

Response	Subject	Have
Yes	I	have
	you	have
	he/she/it	has
	we	have
	they	have

Response	Subject	Have (-)
No	I	haven't
	you	haven't
	he/she/it	hasn't
	we	haven't
	they	haven't

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

- Normal rule (+ING): **drink** → **drinking**
- CVC rule (double last consonant +ING): **cut** → **cutting**
Exceptions: last letter W, X, 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**

KEYWORDS

all, how long, recently, lately, for, the whole, since, for, only

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



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Present Continuous

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Present Perfect Continuous

The present continuous and present perfect continuous tenses have almost exactly the same meaning. The only difference is the focus in the tense.

Present Continuous	Present Perfect Continuous
Process <i>Focus on the activity still happening now, the present result of the action</i> I'm studying to become a doctor	Duration of time <i>Focus on the activity that has been happening recently (the journey), not the current result</i> I've been learning English for 10 years
Right now I'm teaching you	Impact on present It's been raining all morning and my garden is flooded
Future events My mum is visiting me on Sunday	Temporary situations I've been watching the news a lot recently
Change in state The children are growing up so quickly	
Before and after At 7am, I'm normally having a shower	