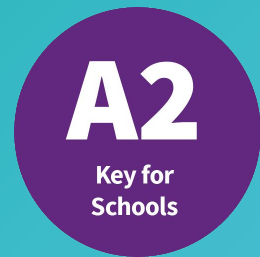


GOLD experience



Unit 2 – present continuous

The present continuous

Let's look at:

1. When we use the present continuous.
2. How we make sentences in the present continuous.
3. Spelling changes in the *-ing* form.



When do we use it?

Function: When do we use it?



Is your mum at home today?

Yes. She isn't working today because she's ill. She's sleeping at the moment.



She isn't working today.

Which of these two actions is a temporary action?

She's sleeping at the moment.

Which of these two actions is happening right now?



The young girl talks about two different actions.
1. Her mum isn't working today.
2. She's sleeping at the moment.

Function: When do we use it?

1. For actions happening now.

She's sleeping at the moment.

This action is happening in this moment (at the same time the girl is speaking).

She is sleeping

now



2. For temporary actions.

She isn't working today (because she is ill).

This action is not permanent. The mum usually works, so this is different from normal.

How do we make sentences?

Form: How do we make sentences?



affirmative

e.g. She is sleeping.

negative

e.g. She isn't working.

question

e.g. (Why) Is she sleeping?

short answers

Yes, she is.

Look at the example affirmative, negative and question in the present continuous. Put the pattern in the correct order. The first is done for you.

subject

to be

verb *-ing*

subject

to be

verb *-ing*

subject

to be + not

verb *-ing*

(question word)

subject

yes/ no

to be/to be not

Form: How do we make sentences?



affirmative

e.g. She is sleeping.

Subject + to be + verb -ing

Remember the verb *to be* is: *I am, you are, he/she/it is, we/they are*

Here, the verb *to be* is in the negative: *I'm not, you aren't, he/she/it isn't, we/they aren't.*

negative

e.g. She isn't working.

Subject + to be (not) + verb -ing

Some questions are open (they need a long answer). With these types of questions, we need a question word.

Some questions are closed (*yes/no* answers). We don't use a question word with these types of questions.

question

e.g. (Why) Is she sleeping?

(Question word) + to be + subject + verb -ing ?

short answers

Yes, she is.

Yes/No, + Subject + to be (not)

With *yes/no* answers, we use the verb *to be* in the affirmative or negative.

Things to think about...

...spelling changes with the verb *-ing* form.



Here are some examples.
dance - dancing, eat - eating, hit - hitting
 Notice how there are small changes in spelling.

The spelling of the *-ing* form of the verb can change depending on the **stem of the verb**. The stem is the part of the verb you find in the dictionary, e.g. **swimming** - the stem is **swim**.

Look at the rule changes below...

most verbs	verbs ending in -e	verbs ending in -ie	verbs ending in one vowel and then one consonant
Add <i>-ing</i> . e.g. eat → eating	Remove <i>-e</i> and add <i>-ing</i> . e.g. dance → dancing	Change <i>-ie</i> to <i>-y</i> . e.g. lie → lying	Double the final consonant. e.g. swim → swimming

The *-e* has been removed here!

The *-ie* is now a *-y*.

vowel

consonant

double consonant!

Let's practise!

Practice activities

Complete the gaps with the correct form of the present simple or present continuous. Justify your answers.

1. Timothy.....**'s/is staying**.....(stay) here at the moment, but he usually.....**lives**.....(live) with his parents.
2. A: Where is your cousin? B: She.....**'s/is running**.....(run) in the marathon! Look! There she is!
3. A: My best friend only.....**sleeps**.....(sleep) five hours a night. B: Where is he now?
A: He.....**'s/is sleeping**.....(sleep)! Ha ha ha ha!
4. A: What.....**do you do**.....(do)? B: I'm a teacher.
5. A: What.....**are you doing**.....(do)? B: I.....**'m/am making**.....(make) a cake.
6. John and Jayne.....**aren't/are not dancing**.....(not dance) in the competitions right now because John has a bad back.