

# Present Continuous / Progressive Tense

The present continuous (progressive) form in English grammar has the form is/are/am + -ing.

Examples:

The birds are flying high.

The kids are playing in the park.

The present continuous (progressive) tense is used in the following cases:

1. An action is going on at the time of speaking.

Examples:

She is singing now.

The boys are playing football.

2. For a temporary action that may not be actually happening at the time of speaking, by may be ongoing, off and on.

Example:

I am reading 'The Da Vinci Code' now. (I am not reading it at the moment.)

3. To refer to a particularly obstinate habit which is not changed despite many warnings.

Example:

My sister is stubborn: she is always eating junk food ignoring everyone's advice.

4. To refer to future events.

Example:

I am going to the capital city tomorrow.

NOTE:

The following verbs are not used in the continuous form, because of their meaning.

Verbs of perception such as see, hear, smell, notice, recognize.

Verbs of appearing, such as appear, look, seem.

Verbs of emotion, such as want, wish, desire, feel, like, love, hate, hope, refuse, prefer.

Verbs of thinking, such as think, suppose, believe, agree, consider, trust, remember, forget, know, understand, imagine, mean, mind.

Have (=possess), own, possess, belong to, contain, consist of, be (except when used in the passive.)