



Tikrit University

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Subject: Select Readings

Stage: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

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Past Continuous and Present Continuous

## What Is The Present Continuous?

In English grammar present continuous (also called present progressive) is a verb tense which is used to show that an ongoing action is happening now, either at the moment of speech or now in a larger sense. The present continuous can also be used to show that an **action** is going to take place in the near future. Also it differ from present simple in structure and use.

The formula for Present Continuous is:

**to be [am, is, are] + verb [present participle]**

### Features indicate present continuous:

First condition in The Present continuous use to indicate action happen now (or activities at the moment of speaking) but not finish yet also use with such adverbs ( now, at the moment, today)

**I** 'm studying English now.

**Mother** is cooking food at the moment.

**They** are wearing a new coats today.

Second\_condition in The Present continuous use to indicate action happen in future use with such adverbs: (next Friday, tomorrow, next week).

We only use the Present Continuous tense to talk about the future when we have planned to do something before we speak. We have already **made a decision and a plan** before speaking as:

We **are** having a tea party next Friday.

Kareem **is** getting his salary tomorrow.

I'm leaving Iraq next week.

Most learners use the present continuous by using the present form of the verb "be" + the present participle of a verb.

**Or in clear way use with auxiliary verbs (am, is, are) after subject and add (ing) to verb.**

( So plural subject (I) take + am)

I'm **speaking** to you.

( singular subject She ,He, It take+ is)

She **is staying** in London.

He **is going** to move.

It **is working**.

(plural subjects They, We, You take +are)

We **are playing** football.

They **are fixing** a car.

You **are inviting** to party.

### **Questions in Present continuous:**

We make questions by putting *am, is* or *are* in front of the **subject**:

*Are you listening?*

*Are they coming to your party?*

*When is she going home?*

*What am I doing here?*

### **Negatives in Present continuous:**

We make negatives by putting **not** (or **n't**) after *am, is* or *are*:

*I'm **not** doing that.*

*You **aren't** listening. (or You're **not** listening.)*

*They **aren't** coming to the party. (or They're **not** coming to the party.)*

*She **isn't** going home until Monday. (or She's **not** going home until M*

## Some points need to take care from it:

1-In present continuous need to add (**ing**) to the verb to change it to present continuous state as: go: going, wear: wearing, visit: visiting.

2-Verbs end with (e) , delete (e) and put (**ing**) as: smoke: smoking, come: coming, write: writing.

3-in present continuous verbs end with double (ee) not delet, put( **ing**) in end verb as: agree: agreeing, see: seeing.

4-If the base verb ends in consonant + stressed vowel + consonant, double the last letter: stop: stopping, run: running, begin: beginning.

## Not Using Present Continuous Tense

Always need to remember to never use the present continuous tense with stative verbs. Stative verbs indicate a state of being which does not show qualities of change. These verbs can stay in the simple present. The example below can help you understand it better:

Incorrect: Uncle Ali **is preferring** the date over the chocolate ones that Linda loves.

Correct: Uncle Ali **prefers** the date over the chocolate ones that Linda loves.

Over here, the stative verb *to prefer* shows opinion and thus must not be conjugated into the present continuous. Stative verb categories comprise of **emotion (to love)**, **possession (to belong)**, and **thoughts (to recognize)**, and none of these should make use of the present continuous form.

Past continuous use describe action start in past and still continue to moment of speaking , and indicate un finishing the action in past .

To make Past continuous two main auxiliary verbs :

- Was use with singular subject.
- Were use with plural subject.

First condition can understand that the speaking or written passage formulate from Past continuous when subject fellow with auxiliary in past condition and there is a verb fellow with (ing) as in formula below.

S+ were/was+V+ ing + C

She was **wearing** a coat.

He was **sitting** in garden.

They were **playing** football.

I **was working** at 10pm last night.

Second condition indicate Past continuous in sentence through such tools :

( as,while,when)

They were waiting for the bus when the accident happened.

Jane was skiing when she broke her leg.

When we arrived he was having a bath.

When the fire started I was watching television?

While he was running after the train he fell down.

When I arrived he was still sleeping?

What were you doing when I phoned you last night?

Question / Past Continuous			
What	Was	I He/she/it	Do+ing
	Were	You we they	

## Making questions in Past continuous.

Any question start with wh. Question and end with question mark as in example below:

**What** was she doing?

The answering either in positive or negative state but first delete wh.q. and moving the subject to the beginning followed with correct auxiliary and put (ing) to the verb.

She was working/ positive

She wasn't working/ negative.

The same thing can do with plural subject as in question first delete wh.q. and moving the subject to the beginning followed with correct auxiliary and put (ing) to the verb. below:

What were they doing?

They were working/ positive.

They weren't working/ negative.

## Formulating questions in positive and negative past continuous:

Positive/ Past Continuous			Negative/ Past Continuous		
He/she/it	Was	Work + ing	I He/she/it	wasn't	Work + ing
You we they I	Were		You we they	weren't	