

# DESCRIBE WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING

Being able to discuss what people are doing is a fundamental skill in English communication. It allows learners to describe real-time actions, ask questions about ongoing events, and engage in interactive conversations in personal, academic, and professional contexts. In distance learning environments, this competence is even more relevant since students need to explain what they are doing during online meetings, collaborative projects, or when reporting progress. The lesson focuses on the use of the **Present Continuous tense**, a grammatical structure commonly used to express actions happening now or around the present time.

By mastering this unit, students will be able to talk about daily routines that are in progress, describe the actions of family, friends, or colleagues, and ask meaningful questions about current events. Furthermore, learners will gain fluency by practicing authentic dialogues and applying vocabulary to their own context.

## Grammar Structure: The Present Continuous

The **Present Continuous tense** is formed with the verb **to be** (*am, is, are*) + **verb + ing**.

### Structure:

- **Affirmative:** Subject + *am/is/are* + verb(-ing)
- **Negative:** Subject + *am/is/are not* + verb(-ing)
- **Questions:** *Am/Is/Are* + subject + verb(-ing)?

### ✔ Affirmative Sentences

- I am studying English.
- She is reading a book at the moment.
- They are playing football in the park.

## ✗ Negative Sentences

- I am not watching TV right now.
- He isn't working today.
- We aren't listening to music.

## ? Questions

- What are you doing?
- Is she studying now?
- Are they eating lunch?


## Uses of the Present Continuous


1. **Actions happening right now** → *She is talking on the phone.*
2. **Temporary situations** → *I am living in Madrid for three months.*
3. **Actions around the present time** → *They are studying for their exams this week.*
4. **Future arrangements (informal)** → *We are meeting our friends tomorrow.*


## Vocabulary (common verbs used in Present Continuous)


- **Daily actions:** eating, drinking, reading, studying, playing, working, cooking, sleeping, running.
- **Technology-related actions:** chatting, texting, typing, calling, recording, browsing.
- **Academic/Professional actions:** presenting, attending, writing, listening, collaborating


## Examples in Context


 Student A: "What are you doing?"

 Student B: "I am writing my homework."

 Student A: "Is your brother watching TV?"

 Student B: "No, he isn't. He is playing video games."

 Student A: "What are your friends doing these days?"

 Student B: "They are studying at the library and preparing presentations."

### *Referencia:*

*Azar, B. S., & Hagen, S. A. (2022). Understanding and using English grammar (5th ed.). USA. Pearson Education.*