



TITRE DE LA LEÇON : THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Discipline : Anglais

Sous-discipline : Grammaire

Cycle : Lycée

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Niveau : Terminale C et D

The present continuous, also called present progressive, expresses an action which is happening now or an ongoing action.

A-Form

The present continuous tense is formed with the present tense of the auxiliary verb be + the present participle of the main verb:

Am/is/are + verb + ing

E.g.: To work → I **am** working; You **are** working; He/she/it **is** working.

Affirmative form: Subject + am/is/are + verb + ing + object

- 1-Jack is writing a letter.
- 2-I am reading my lessons.
- 3-Children are playing in the garden.

Negative form: Subject + am/is/are + not + verb + ing + object

- 1-Jack is not writing a letter.
- 2-I am not reading my lessons.
- 3-Children are not playing in the garden.

Interrogative form: Am/is/are + subject + verb + ing + object?

- 1- Is Jack writing a letter?
- 2- Am I reading my lessons?
- 3- Are Children playing in the garden?

Negative interrogative form:

Am/is/are + Subject + not + verb + ing + object?

- 1- Is Jack not writing a letter?
- 2- Am I not reading my lessons?
- 3- Are Children not playing in the garden?

-Contractions

The auxiliary **be** is contracted in the present continuous tense:

Examples:

Affirmative	Negative	Negative interrogative
I'm working	I'm not working	Aren't I working?
You're working	You're not working	Aren't you working?
He's working	He's not working	Isn't he working?

Note: The contracted form of Am I not? is Aren't I? (irregular contraction)



B-Formation of the present participle

a)-Verbs ending in a single **e** drop the **e** and add **ing**:

Examples: To live – **living**
To change – **changing**

Except: To be – **being**; To dye – **dying**;

To age – **ageing**; To singe – **singeing**;

b)- Verbs ending in **ee** add **ing**:

Examples: To see – **seeing**
To agree – **agreeing**

c)- Verbs ending in **ie** change the **ie** into **y** and add **ing**:

Examples: To lie – **lying**; To tie – **tying**

d)-When a one syllable verb has one vowel and ends in a single consonant, this consonant is doubled:

Examples: To hit – **hitting**; To run – **running**

Note: This rule also applies to some verbs having two syllables:

Examples: To admit /əd 'mɪt / – **admitting** /əd 'mɪtɪŋ/
To begin /bɪ 'ɡɪn/ – **beginning** /bɪ 'ɡɪnɪŋ/

f)-A final **l** after a single vowel is also doubled before **ing**:

Examples: To signal – **signalling**
To travel – **travelling**

But: To travel – **traveling** (American English).

C-Uses/functions of the present continuous tense

We use the present continuous tense

-To indicate that an action is happening now (at the time of speaking)

Examples: -It **is raining**.
-Listen! Someone **is knocking** at the door.
-Why **are you crying**?

-To talk about some changes arriving with time:

Examples: -Your English **is getting** better.
-Food **is getting** more and more expensive these days.

-To talk about planned future activities. We often give the exact time:

Example: -I'**m meeting** my boyfriend at 4 P.M.
-They **are going** to Pointe-Noire tomorrow.

-To describe a temporary situation or event:

Example: -He usually plays the drums, but he'**s playing** bass guitar tonight.
-The weather forecast was good, but it'**s raining** at the moment.

Exercise one: Put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous tense.

1-Please, don't make so much noise. I (to try) to work.

2-Let's go out now. It (not to rain) any more.

3-You can turn off the radio. I (not to listen) to it.

4-Kate phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France. She (to have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.

5-I want to lose weight, so this week, I (not to eat) lunch.



- 6-Jane has just started evening classes. She (to learn) German.
7-Paul and Sally have had an argument. They (not to speak) to each other.
8-I (to get) tired. I need a rest.
9-Tim (not to work) this week. He is on holiday.
10-A: "What Peter (to study)?" – B: 'He (to study) psychology.

Exercise two: Complete these sentences with the correct form of the present continuous tense, using the following verbs: get; happen; look; lose; make; go; stay; try; work.

- 1-A: "You hard today". – B: "Yes, I have a lot to do".
2-"I for Krishna. Do you know where she is?"
3-It dark. Shall I turn on the light?
4-They don't have anywhere to live at the moment. They with friends until they find somewhere to live.
5-Things are not so good at work. The company money.
6-Have you got an umbrella? It to rain.
7-You a lot of noise. Can you be quieter? I to concentrate.
8-Why are all these people here? What ?