

The present continuous is used to talk about present situations which we see as short-term or temporary . We use the present simple to talk about present situations which we see as long-term or permanent.

In these examples, the action is taking place at the time of speaking.

- It's raining.
- Who is Kate talking to on the phone?
- Look, somebody is trying to steal that man's wallet.
- I'm watching a very scary movie.

In these examples, the action is true at the present time but we don't think it will be true in the long term.

- I'm looking for a new apartment.
- He's thinking about leaving his job.
- They're considering making an appeal against the judgment.
- Are you getting enough sleep?

In these examples, the action is at a definite point in the future and it has already been arranged.

- I'm meeting her at 6.30.
- They aren't arriving until Tuesday.
- We are having a special dinner at a top restaurant for all the senior managers.
- Isn't he coming to the dinner?

Work in pairs. Fill in the blanks with verbs from the table below:

are you doing	am looking	am listening	is talking
are waiting	is coming	is raining	is checking

- a. He _____ . He'll be here in a minute.
- b. I _____ for Jack. Have you seen him?
- c. He _____ to Janet about the problems in the office.
- d. Hurry up!. They _____ for us.
- e. Please be quiet. I _____ to the news.
- f. She _____ her email.
- g. What _____ with that knife?
- h. Bring your umbrella. It _____.

Work in pairs. Write the continuous form of the verb in the blank.

1. The sun (set) _____ behind the mountain now.
2. The players (practice) _____ on the field.
3. I (listen) _____ to the news on my car radio.
4. I'll call you later. We (eat) _____ dinner right now.
5. Olga (read) _____ a novel about cowboys.
6. I can't talk long. I (call) _____ you from my car.
7. We (try) _____ to finish our homework.
8. Oh my, your hand (bleed) _____.

Open your OPD to page 185. Read these short stories as you look at the pictures. Ask the teacher questions about anything you don't understand.

Juan is a short-order cook in a cafe. He is preparing hamburgers. He turns the hamburgers with a spatula. Sam is the dishwasher. He rinses the plates. The water is hot, so he wears rubber gloves to protect his hands.

Jake takes some meat out of the freezer. When the meat thaws, he will slice it. He must be careful. The knife is sharp. He doesn't want to cut his hand. The chefs prepare the menu. Everyone wears hats. All food preparation employees must wear hats in the kitchen.

Alma is a waitress. She is serving Katrina her dinner. Katrina reaches for a roll. There is a buffet on the table behind Katrina. Katrina is very hungry.

The maitre d' seats Kathy at the table. She is alone at the table. She is waiting for Tom to come. He is late. The table needs silverware, glasses, plates and napkins. The headwaiter asks the girl to bus the table. If you bus a table, you clean it up and get it ready for the next person.

There is a banquet in the banquet room. Many people are seated. They all have coffee. The caterer is bringing dessert.