

FUMCESL 11-17-2025 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Reminders: This Wednesday, Nov. 19th is an ESL work day at the church. If you can volunteer to help, please meet the teachers in front of our church at 10 AM. We will be finished by noon. We will be getting out the Christmas decorations. It will be fun. Hope to see you.

Also remember, we will not meet at all next week due to Thanksgiving holidays.

Introduce yourself. Tell your name, where you are from and something about yourself.

Present Continuous or Present Tense with Stative Verbs

Present continuous verbs have a "to be" verb (am, is, are) plus an ING verb. EX: It **is raining**, The children **are playing** together . They **are asking** too much money for that house. We **are flying** to New York next week.

There are some verbs that talk about **condition** rather than action. **We don't usually use these in present continuous tense.** These are called **stative** verbs. Stative verbs include be, want, cost, need, care, contain, owe, exist, own, belong, like, love, hate, fear, envy, etc.

Examples:

We would not say, "I am wanting a break". We would say, "I want a break."

Not- "He is needing our care." But - "He needs our care."

Not - "We are owning a boat." But - "We own a boat."

Like any grammar rule in English, there are exceptions to the rule. For example, when we are describing a condition that is happening now, rather than a long term condition, we might use present continuous. In this situation, the meaning might be slightly different. Here are some examples.

Jo is difficult to deal with. This sentence talks about Jo's permanent personality, so we don't use present continuous. However, if we are talking about the immediate situation, we would say, "We are negotiating a new contract, and Jo **is being** difficult to deal with."

Jo is not always difficult to deal with, but he is in this situation.

We say, "The copy machine broke after just one month of use. The company **is promising** to send a refund."

We say, "I am afraid of going outside at night, My husband says, I **am being** silly."

We say, "We **are loving** our new house." Or "We love our new house." But we don't say, "**I'm loving** you, honey."

We say, "We hope to stay here one more year." OR We **are hoping** to stay here one more year.

EITHER "We enjoy our life here." OR "We **are enjoying** our life here."

Read these sentences. Choose the best verb tense. Tell if either choice could be correct. If you can use either tense, does the meaning change?

1. I (smell / am smelling) smoke.
2. I (like / am liking) my job better now that I understand what to do.
3. Our garden (measures/ is measuring) twelve feet by twenty feet.
4. I (doubt/am doubting) that the plane will take off on time.
5. I (admit/ am admitting) I made a mistake.
6. She (believes/ is believing) me now.
7. This bread (consists/is consisting) of flour, water, and yeast.
8. I (see/ am seeing) lots of birds in this park.
9. I (apologize/ am apologizing) for not getting back to you sooner.
10. I (doubt / am doubting) that she is the woman for the job.
11. These cookies (taste / are tasting) delicious.
12. They (own/ are owning) many houses in the central area of the city.
13. I (promise / am promising) to spend more time with the family.
14. We (come /are coming) from China.
15. I (think / am thinking) we should leave now.
16. The chef (tastes / is tasting) the sauce before he serves it.
17. My grandmother (likes / is liking) me more than her other grandchildren.
18. She (seems / is seeming) happy.

Discuss:

1-Are you regretting your decision to move to the U.S.? In what ways is living here different than you expected?

2-Talk about a relative who you are really close to. Describe your relationship. Talk about something he/she has done to make you feel loved.