

## Lesson 5: The Present Continuous Tense

### 1/ Form:

The present continuous is formed by using the present tense of the auxiliary «to be» and the (-ing) form of the verb. For negatives and questions we also use the auxiliary «to be» and the (-ing) form of the verb:

Positive	Negative	Question
I <b>am</b> working	I <b>am not</b> working	<b>Am</b> I working?
You <b>are</b> working	You <b>are not</b> working	<b>Are</b> you working?
He/she/it <b>is</b> working	He/she/it <b>is not</b> working	<b>Is</b> he/she/it working?
We <b>are</b> working	We <b>are not</b> working	<b>Are</b> we working?
They <b>are</b> working	They <b>are not</b> working	<b>Are</b> they working?

### 2/ Uses of the Present Continuous Tense:

- **Moment of speaking**

The present continuous is used to talk about an activity taking place at the moment of Speaking.

Examples:

I'm afraid Herr Seifert is not available at the moment. He is talking to a customer on the other phone.

I am just leaving work. I will be home in an hour

- **Current projects**

The present continuous is used to talk about actions or activities and current projects that are taking place over a period of time (even if they are not taking place precisely at the moment of speaking)

Examples:

- Barton's is one of the largest local construction companies. At the moment we are building a new estate with 200 houses and we are negotiating with the council for the sale of development land in Boxley Wood.
- China's Central Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation is planning a big increase in output. It is upgrading its manufacturing plants to produce state-of-the-art silicon.

● **Future Plans and arrangements**

The present continuous is used to talk about future plans. A future plan is arrangement for an event at a time later than now.

Examples:

- I am leaving tomorrow
- We are having a staff meeting next Monday
- What are you doing next week

**Practice:**

**Put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous. See the example.**

- 1 Could I ring you back in a few minutes? I *am talking* (talk) to someone on the other line.
- 2 Jamila is upstairs with Alexei and Roy. They ..... (have) a meeting about the products website.
- 3 What ..... (you/do) here? I thought you had gone to the airport.
- 4 Could you tell Mr Gaspaldi that Miss Lee is here? He ..... (expect) me.
- 5 Oh no, the printer ..... (not work). I'll call the IT Department.
- 6 This is a very bad line. .... (you/call) from your mobile?
- 7 I ..... (phone) to say that I'll be home late this evening.