

Unit 3

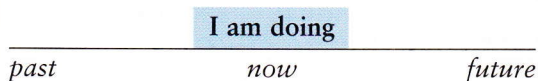
Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

A

Compare:

Present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking.
The action is not complete.



- ☐ The water **is boiling**. Can you turn it off?
- ☐ Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**?
- ☐ Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- ☐ 'I'm busy.' 'What **are you doing**?'
- ☐ I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- ☐ Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- ☐ The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

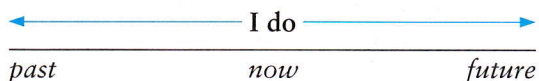
We use the continuous for *temporary* situations:

- ☐ I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- ☐ A: You're **working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

Present simple (I do)

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.



- ☐ Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- ☐ Excuse me, **do you speak** English?
- ☐ It **doesn't rain** very much in summer.
- ☐ What **do you usually do** at weekends?
- ☐ I **always get** hungry in the afternoon.
- ☐ Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- ☐ Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations:

- ☐ My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- ☐ John **isn't** lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

B

I always do and I'm always doing

I **always do** (something) = I do it every time:

- ☐ I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

'I'm always doing something' has a different meaning. For example:



I've lost my pen again. I'm **always losing** things.

I'm **always losing** things = I lose things very often, perhaps too often, or more often than normal.

Two more examples:

- ☐ You're **always watching** television. You should do something more active.
(= You watch television too often)
- ☐ Tim is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= He complains too much)

Exercises

Unit 3

3.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. OK
- 2 The water boils. Can you turn it off? is boiling
- 3 Look! That man tries to open the door of your car.
- 4 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about?
- 5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days.
- 6 I must go now. It gets late.
- 7 I usually go to work by car.
- 8 'Hurry up! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.'
- 9 I hear you've got a new job. How do you get on?
- 10 Paul is never late. He's always getting to work on time.
- 11 They don't get on well. They're always arguing.

3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Let's go out. It isn't raining (not / rain) now.
- 2 Julia is very good at languages. She speaks (speak) four languages very well.
- 3 Hurry up! Everybody (wait) for you.
- 4 '..... (you / listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'
- 5 '..... (you / listen) to the radio every day?' 'No, just occasionally.'
- 6 The River Nile (flow) into the Mediterranean.
- 7 The river (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 8 We usually (grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year we
..... (not / grow) any.
- 9 A: How's your English?
B: Not bad. I think it (improve) slowly.
- 10 Rachel is in London at the moment. She (stay) at the Park Hotel.
She always (stay) there when she's in London.
- 11 Can we stop walking soon? I (start) to feel tired.
- 12 A: Can you drive?
B: I (learn). My father (teach) me.
- 13 Normally I (finish) work at five, but this week I
..... (work) until six to earn a little more money.
- 14 My parents (live) in Manchester. They were born there and have never
lived anywhere else. Where (your parents / live)?
- 15 Sonia (look) for a place to live. She (stay) with
her sister until she finds somewhere.
- 16 A: What (your brother / do)?
B: He's an architect, but he (not / work) at the moment.
- 17 (at a party) I usually (enjoy) parties, but I
(not / enjoy) this one very much.

3.3 Finish B's sentences. Use always -ing.

- 1 A: I've lost my pen again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your pen.
- 2 A: The car has broken down again.
B: That car is useless. It
- 3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.
B: Oh no, not again! I
- 4 A: Oh, I've forgotten my glasses again.
B: Typical!