

Discover

ENGLISH GRAMMAR IN USE

English Grammar in Use is your trusted companion for grammar. This easy-to-use resource has simple explanations and lots of practice exercises to help you with your English language learning.

Try it for yourself!

Use this free extract to see how English Grammar in Use can help you.

Below, you'll find a section from the book on Present Continuous. Try reading through the explanations on the first page to understand this grammar topic. Then you can test your knowledge with the exercises on the following page.

If you can access a printer, simply print these pages to complete the exercises. If not, grab something to write your answers on. Once you have completed the exercises check your answers using the page "Key to Exercises".



How well did you do?

To find out more about English Grammar in Use go to [Cambridge.org](https://www.cambridge.org)

Unit 1

Present continuous (I am doing)

A Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
 She's **driving** to work. (= She **is driving** ...)

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
 The action is not finished.

am/is/are + -ing is the *present continuous*:

I	am	(= I'm)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he's etc.)	working
we/you/they	are	(= we're etc.)	doing etc.



B **I am doing** something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He's **having** a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? **Are you enjoying** it?
- What's all that noise? What's **going** on? or What's **happening**?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm reading a really good book at the moment.
 It's about a man who ...

Steve says '**I'm reading** ...' but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking.
 He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
 (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're **working** hard **today**. (*not* You work hard today)
- B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

D We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

getting, becoming
starting, beginning

changing, improving
increasing, rising, falling, growing

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **starting** to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)

Key to Exercises

In some of the exercises you have to use your own ideas to write sentences. Example answers are given in the Key. If possible, check your answers with somebody who speaks English well.

UNIT 1

1.1

- 2 He's tying / He is tying
- 3 They're crossing / They are crossing
- 4 He's scratching / He is scratching
- 5 She's hiding / She is hiding
- 6 They're waving / They are waving

1.2

- 2 e 6 h
- 3 g 7 b
- 4 a 8 c
- 5 d

1.3

- 2 Why are you crying?
- 3 Is she working today?
- 4 What are you doing these days?
- 5 What is she studying? / What's she studying?
- 6 What are they doing?
- 7 Are you enjoying it?
- 8 Why are you walking so fast?

1.4

- 3 I'm not listening / I am not listening
- 4 She's having / She is having
- 5 He's learning / He is learning
- 6 they aren't speaking / they're not speaking / they are not speaking
- 7 it's getting / it is getting
- 8 isn't working / 's not working / is not working
- 9 I'm looking / I am looking
- 10 It's working / It is working
- 11 They're building / They are building
- 12 He's not enjoying / He is not enjoying
- 13 The weather's changing / The weather is changing
- 14 He's starting / He is starting