

## Unit 1

### Present Continuous (I am Doing)

#### A. Study this example situation

**Anna is in her car. She is on her way to work.  
She is driving to work.**

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'm in the middle of doing it; I've started doing it and I haven't finished yet:

- ☆ 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)
- ☆ (*at a party*) Hello, Jane. **Are** you **enjoying** the party? (*not* Do you enjoy)
- ☆ What's all that noise? What's **going** on? (= What's happening)

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

John 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..."

John is not reading the book at the time of speaking.

He means that he has started it, but has not finished it yet.

He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- ☆ Kelly 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 **are 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 changes happening around now, especially with these verbs:

**get   change   become   increase   rise   fall   grow   improve   begin   start**

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

## Exercises

## Unit 1

## 1.1. Complete the sentences with the following verbs in the correct form:

**get    happen    look    lose    make    start    stay    try**

1. 'You ...**re working**... hard today.' 'Yes. I have a lot to do.'
2. I .....for Rachel. Do you know where she is?
3. It .....dark. Shall I turn on the light?
4. They don't have anywhere to live at the moment. They ..... with friends until they find somewhere.
5. Things are not so good at work. The company .....money.
6. Have you got an umbrella? It .....to rain.
7. You .....a lot of noise. Can you be quieter? I .....to concentrate.
8. Why are all these people here? What .....

## 1.2. Put the verb into the correct form. Sometimes you need the negative (I'm not doing etc.)

1. Please don't make so much noise. I ...**'m trying**... (try) to work.
2. Let's go out now. It ... **isn't raining**... (rain) any more.
3. You can turn off the radio. I ..... (listen) to it.
4. Kelly phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France. She ..... (have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
5. I want to lose weight. So this week I ..... (eat) lunch.
6. Andrew has just started evening classes. He ..... (learn) German.
7. Paul and Sally have had an argument. They ..... (speak) to each other.
8. I ..... (get) tired. I need a rest.
9. Tim ..... (work) this week. He's on holiday.

## 1.3. Complete the conversations.

1. A: I saw Brian a few days ago.  
B: Oh, did you? ...**what's he doing**... these days? (what / he / do)  
A: He's at university.  
B: .....? (what / he / study)  
A: Psychology  
B: ..... it? (he / enjoy)  
A: Yes, he says it's a very good course.
2. A: Hi, Liz. How ..... in your new job? (you / get on)  
B: Not bad. It wasn't so good at first, but ..... better now. (things / get)  
A: What about Jonathan? Is he OK?  
B: Yes, but ..... his work at the moment. (he / not / enjoy) He's been in the same job for a long time and ..... to get bored with it. (he / begin)

## 1.4. Complete the sentences using the following verb :

**begin    change    get    rise**

1. The population of the world ...**is increasing**... very fast.
2. The world ..... . Things never stay the same.
3. The situation is already bad and it ..... worse.
4. The cost of living ..... Every year things are more expensive.
5. The weather ..... to improve. The raining has stopped, and the wind isn't as strong.