

# Present Progressive

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# Grammar Notes

## PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

### A. Use

Use the present progressive for actions that are happening **now** (continuing actions).

<b>Present Progressive</b>	
<b>Diagram</b>	
<b>Common Time Markers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• now</li> <li>• right now</li> <li>• at the moment</li> <li>• at this time</li> <li>• nowadays</li> <li>• these days</li> <li>• currently</li> <li>• presently</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>am writing</b> an email now.</li> <li>• My sister <b>is taking</b> a nap.</li> <li>• These days, I'<b>m learning</b> French.</li> <li>• We <b>are leaving</b> right now.</li> <li>• The students <b>are working</b> in groups.</li> <li>• He'<b>s listening</b> to music at the moment.</li> </ul>

## Grammar Notes cont.

### B. Patterns for Positive Sentences

**Pattern #1:**

Be + -ing V

To form the present progressive (also called the *present continuous*), use the *Be* verb with a present participle (-ing form). The *Be* verb is often shortened into a *contraction* in speaking and writing.

	<b>Pronouns</b>	<b>Contractions</b>
<b>Singular</b>	I <b>am walking</b> to work.	I' <b>m walking</b> to work.
	You <b>are watching</b> TV.	You' <b>re watching</b> TV.
	He <b>is playing</b> tennis.	He' <b>s playing</b> tennis.
	She <b>is washing</b> the dishes.	She' <b>s washing</b> the dishes.
	It <b>is raining</b> .	It' <b>s raining</b> .
<b>Plural</b>	We <b>are eating</b> dinner.	We' <b>re eating</b> dinner.
	You <b>are watching</b> a movie together.	You' <b>re watching</b> a movie together.
	They <b>are singing</b> .	They' <b>re singing</b> .

	<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Contractions</b>
<b>Singular</b>	The dog <b>is chasing</b> the cat.	The dog' <b>s chasing</b> the cat. <i>(possible, but informal)</i>
<b>Plural</b>	The children <b>are sleeping</b> .	—

## Grammar Notes cont.

### C. Patterns for Negative Sentences

**Pattern #2:**

Be + not + -ing V

To make a negative present progressive sentence, use *not* between *Be* and the *-ing* verb. When the subject is a pronoun, there are two common ways to make contractions (short forms) of the negative verb.

	Pronouns	Contractions	
Singular	I <b>am not calling</b> him back.	I'm <b>not calling</b> him back.	—
	You <b>are not cooking</b> dinner.	You're <b>not cooking</b> dinner.	You <b>aren't cooking</b> dinner.
	He <b>is not washing</b> his car.	He's <b>not washing</b> his car.	He <b>isn't washing</b> his car.
	She <b>is not playing</b> the guitar.	She's <b>not playing</b> the guitar.	She <b>isn't playing</b> the guitar.
	It <b>is not going</b> well.	It's <b>not going</b> well.	It <b>isn't going</b> well.
Plural	We <b>are not moving</b> to a new city.	We're <b>not moving</b> to a new city.	We <b>aren't moving</b> to a new city.
	You <b>are not studying</b> together.	You're <b>not studying</b> together.	You <b>aren't studying</b> together.
	They <b>are not swimming</b> .	They're <b>not swimming</b> .	They <b>aren't swimming</b> .

	Nouns	Contractions	
Singular	That driver <b>is not stopping</b> at the red light.	That driver's <b>not stopping</b> at the red light. <i>(possible, but informal)</i>	That driver <b>isn't stopping</b> at the red light. <i>(more common)</i>
Plural	The students <b>are not paying</b> attention.	—	The students <b>aren't paying</b> attention.

## Grammar Notes cont.

### D. Patterns for Yes/No Questions

**Pattern #3:**

Be + Subject + -ing V

Yes/No questions in the present progressive tense begin with the *Be* verb. There are two common ways to make contractions for answers with *No*.

	Pronouns	Short Answers	
		Positive	Negative
Singular	Am I <b>bothering</b> you?	Yes, you <b>are</b> .	No, you're <b>not</b> . / No, you <b>aren't</b> .
	Are you <b>studying</b> right now?	Yes, I <b>am</b> .	No, I'm <b>not</b> .
	Is he <b>doing</b> his laundry?	Yes, he <b>is</b> .	No, he's <b>not</b> . / No, he <b>isn't</b> .
	Is she <b>playing</b> basketball?	Yes, she <b>is</b> .	No, she's <b>not</b> . / No, she <b>isn't</b> .
	Is it <b>snowing</b> ?	Yes, it <b>is</b> .	No, it's <b>not</b> . / No, it <b>isn't</b> .
Plural	Are we <b>getting</b> a raise?	Yes, we <b>are</b> .	No, we're <b>not</b> . / No, we <b>aren't</b> .
	Are you <b>packing</b> for your trip?	Yes, we <b>are</b> .	No, we're <b>not</b> . / No, we <b>aren't</b> .
	Are they <b>shopping</b> ?	Yes, they <b>are</b> .	No, they're <b>not</b> . / No, they <b>aren't</b> .

	Nouns	Short Answers	
		Positive	Negative
Singular	Is the manager <b>speaking</b> to her staff?	Yes, she <b>is</b> .	No, she's <b>not</b> . / No, she <b>isn't</b> .
Plural	Are the neighbors <b>walking</b> their dog?	Yes, they <b>are</b> .	No, they're <b>not</b> . / No, they <b>aren't</b> .

## Grammar Notes cont.

### D. Patterns for Yes/No Questions cont.

#### Note #1:

Do not use a contraction in short answers with *Yes*.

- |              |               |                  |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| ✗ Yes, I'm.  | ✗ Yes, he's.  | ✗ Yes, they're.  |
| ✓ Yes, I am. | ✓ Yes, he is. | ✓ Yes, they are. |

#### Note #2:

When the short answer is *No*, there are two common ways to make contractions of negative verbs, except when the pronoun is *I*.

- |           |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| ✓ 're not | ✓ 's not | ✓ 'm not |
| ✓ aren't  | ✓ isn't  | ✗ amn't  |

### E. Patterns for Wh- Questions

#### Pattern #4:

Wh- + Be + Subject + -ing V

The *Be* verb follows the *Wh-* word (*who, what, when, where, why, how, which, whose*) in this type of present progressive question.

Questions	Answers
What <b>are</b> you <b>doing</b> now?	I'm <b>doing</b> my homework.
Who <b>is</b> she <b>texting</b> ?	She's <b>texting</b> her roommate.
Why <b>are</b> your friends <b>running</b> ?	Their teacher <b>is telling</b> them to hurry up.

## Grammar Notes cont.

### F. Spelling Rules

To spell verbs with an *-ing* ending, use the following rules.

#	Rules	Examples
1	If the verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern, double the final consonant and add <i>-ing</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>run → running</li> <li>forget → forgetting</li> <li>put → putting</li> </ul>
2	If the verb ends in <i>-e</i> , drop it and add <i>-ing</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write → writing</li> <li>give → giving</li> <li>choose → choosing</li> </ul>
3	For almost all other cases, add <i>-ing</i> to the base verb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>catch → catching</li> <li>ski → skiing</li> <li>try → trying</li> </ul>
4	There are a few exceptions to the normal spelling rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lie → lying</li> <li>visit → visiting</li> <li>panic → panicking</li> </ul>

# Exercise 1

## POSITIVE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences below with verbs from the Word List.  
Use each verb only once. Use the present progressive tense.

- Ex. It is a beautiful day. The sun is shining.
1. My mother is busy now. She \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.
  2. My father is in the garage. He \_\_\_\_\_ the car.
  3. The students are in the classroom. They \_\_\_\_\_ to their teacher.
  4. My son is in his room with his toys. He \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. Ellie is in her bedroom. She \_\_\_\_\_ for her exam.
  6. Amira and Ali are at a party. They \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. You should take your umbrella. It \_\_\_\_\_.
  8. Vasha is going to a wedding. She \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful dress.
  9. The floor is dirty. Mika \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  10. Sayid is at the supermarket. He \_\_\_\_\_ groceries.
  11. It is 12:00. The children \_\_\_\_\_ lunch.
  12. Bianca has a bad cold. She \_\_\_\_\_.
  13. The students are in the library. They \_\_\_\_\_.
  14. My grandfather is asleep on the couch. He \_\_\_\_\_.

### Word List:

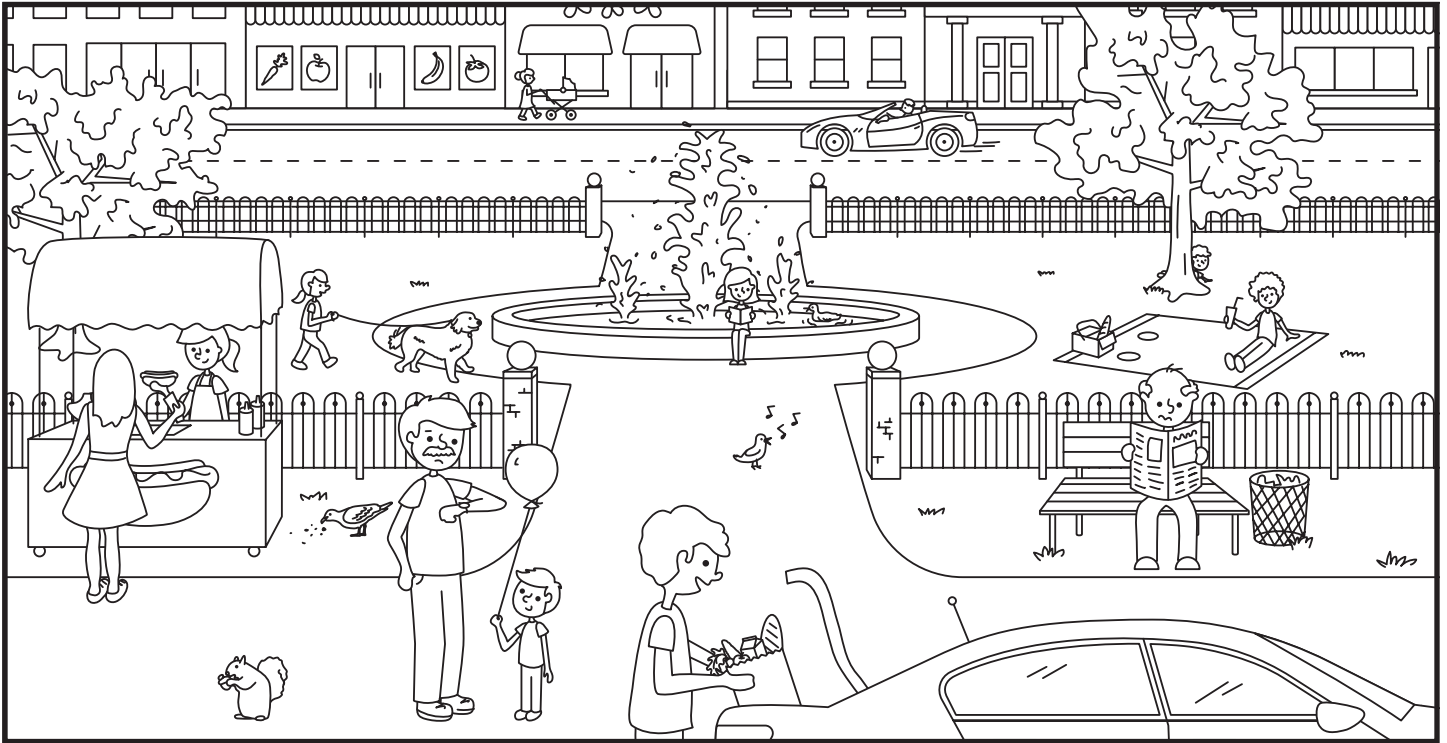
- wear
- study
- sneeze
- listen
- rain
- fix
- dance
- eat
- read
- shine
- buy
- make
- wash
- snore
- play



## Exercise 2

### WRITING

Look at the picture. Write 10 sentences using the present progressive tense.



Ex. *The man is looking at his watch.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 3

### NEGATIVE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences below with verbs from the Word List. Write the same present progressive verb twice in each pair of sentences, but make the first sentence negative.

**Word List:**

- |         |          |         |
|---------|----------|---------|
| • drink | • eat    | • drive |
| • go    | • study  | • speak |
| • wash  | • listen | • watch |
| • play  | • write  | • ride  |
| • wear  | • snow   | • smoke |

- Ex. Junko \_\_\_\_\_ *isn't wearing* \_\_\_\_\_ wearing a blue dress. \_\_\_\_\_ *She is wearing* \_\_\_\_\_ a black dress.
- Mohammed \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics. He \_\_\_\_\_ history.
  - The boys \_\_\_\_\_ soccer. They \_\_\_\_\_ hockey.
  - I \_\_\_\_\_ coffee. I \_\_\_\_\_ tea.
  - She \_\_\_\_\_ a letter to her grandmother. She \_\_\_\_\_ to her aunt.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ a new car. We \_\_\_\_\_ a used car.
  - I \_\_\_\_\_ fish for dinner. I \_\_\_\_\_ steak.
  - She \_\_\_\_\_ sports on TV. She \_\_\_\_\_ a movie.
  - The tourists \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese. They \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ a cigarette. He \_\_\_\_\_ a pipe.
  - She \_\_\_\_\_ the dishes. She \_\_\_\_\_ her clothes.
  - They \_\_\_\_\_ to classical music. They \_\_\_\_\_ to rock music.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ to Hawaii for our vacation. We \_\_\_\_\_ to Mexico.
  - It \_\_\_\_\_ inside the house. It \_\_\_\_\_ outside.
  - My daughter \_\_\_\_\_ a bicycle. She \_\_\_\_\_ a horse.

## Exercise 4

### YES/NO QUESTIONS

Write short answers to these Yes/No questions.

Ex. Are you jogging at the moment? **(yes)**

*Yes, I am.*

---

1. Is Mrs. Jackson typing up the report? **(yes)**

---

2. Are you reading Shakespeare right now? **(no)**

---

3. Are they looking for a new car? **(no)**

---

4. Are you out shopping for my gift now? **(no)**

---

5. Is your dog eating more food these days? **(yes)**

---

6. Is she preparing for her next class right now? **(no)**

---

7. Are the children playing? **(yes)**

---

8. Is Mario taking a test at the moment? **(no)**

---

9. Is the teen looking at his phone? **(yes)**

---

10. Is your daughter learning to tie her shoes nowadays? **(yes)**

---

## Exercise 5

### ACT IT OUT

Your teacher will give you a card with an action. Act it out! Your classmates will ask what you are doing. Respond using a short answer. Then guess what your classmates are doing.

#### Example:

Lisa: *[gets a card that says dance]*

Lisa: *[starts dancing]*

Mark: Are you jumping?

Lisa: No, I'm not.

Kim: Are you dancing?

Lisa: Yes, I am!

## Exercise 6

### WH- QUESTIONS

Look at the answers below. Then write questions using *Wh-* words.

Ex. *What are you eating?*

I'm eating a sandwich.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

He's going to the store.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

The teacher is writing on the blackboard.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm studying because I want to do well on the test.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm talking to my mother.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

My roommates are buying milk and bread.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Kate is jogging around the track.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm doing well, thanks.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

He is wearing his brother's jacket.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

We are driving to the mall.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm taking vitamins because I want to be healthy.

## Exercise 7

### GUESSING GAME

Find a partner. Your teacher will give you some action cards.

#### A. Speaking

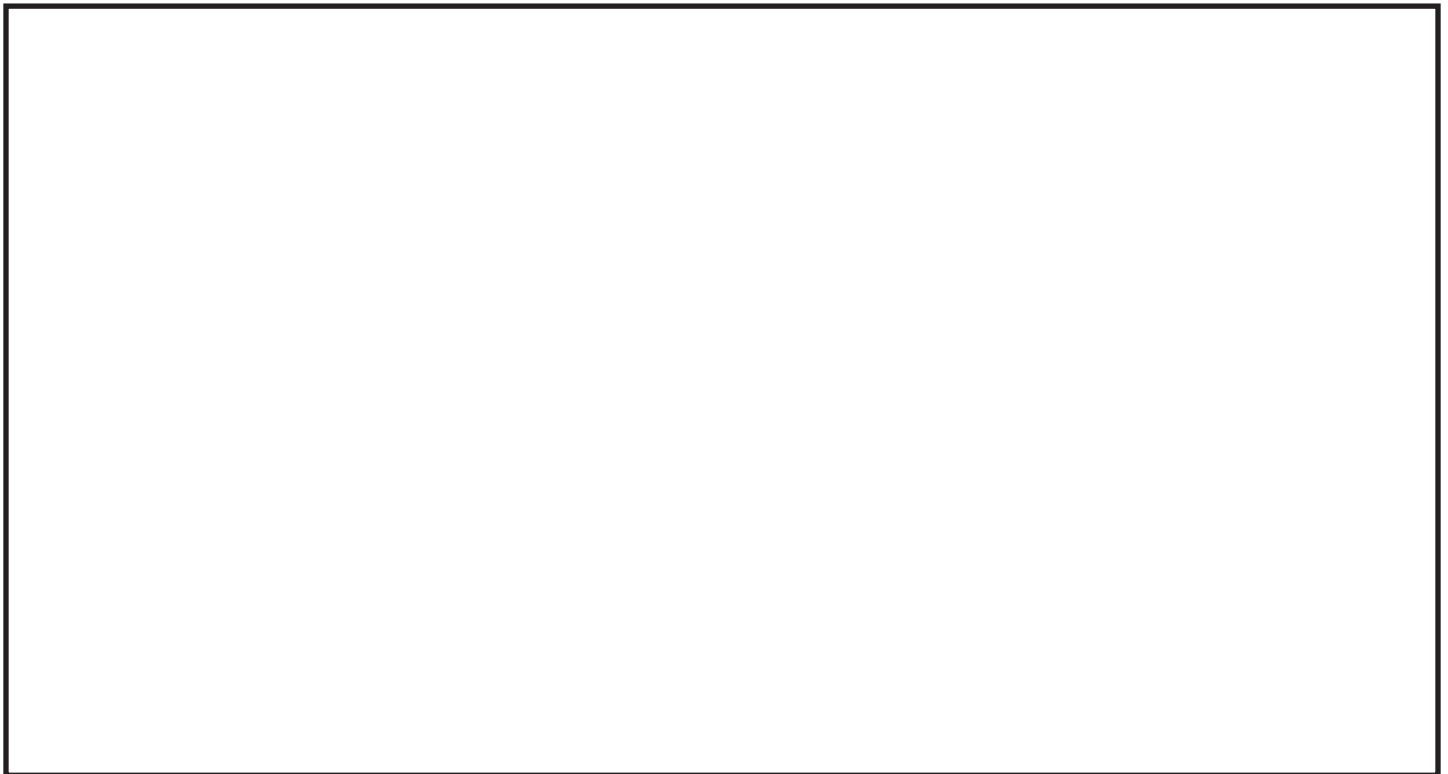
Take turns choosing a card and **describing** your action to your partner. Do not say the words on the card and do not act! Your partner will try to guess what you are doing. Use present progressive verbs. Save your last card for Part B below.

#### Example:

- A: I am using my voice. I am making a loud sound.  
 B: Are you snoring?  
 A: No, I'm not. I'm making a beautiful sound.  
 B: Are you singing?  
 A: Yes, I am!

#### B. Drawing

For your last action card, do not speak. Draw the action in the box below. Your partner will try to guess the action.



## Exercise 8

### QUIZ

Find one error in each sentence. Write the correct sentences below.

Ex. You's working on your computer.

*You're working on your computer.*

---

1. My neighbor are mowing the lawn.

---

2. Are studying you right now?

---

3. I not am speaking to her at the moment.

---

4. He is writting an essay in class.

---

5. Michael and Lindy is watching a movie.

---

6. She's walking her dog yesterday.

---

7. Where you are going?

---

8. My brothers're making spaghetti.

---

9. They're skiing down the mountain.

---

10. My friends is playing baseball now.

---