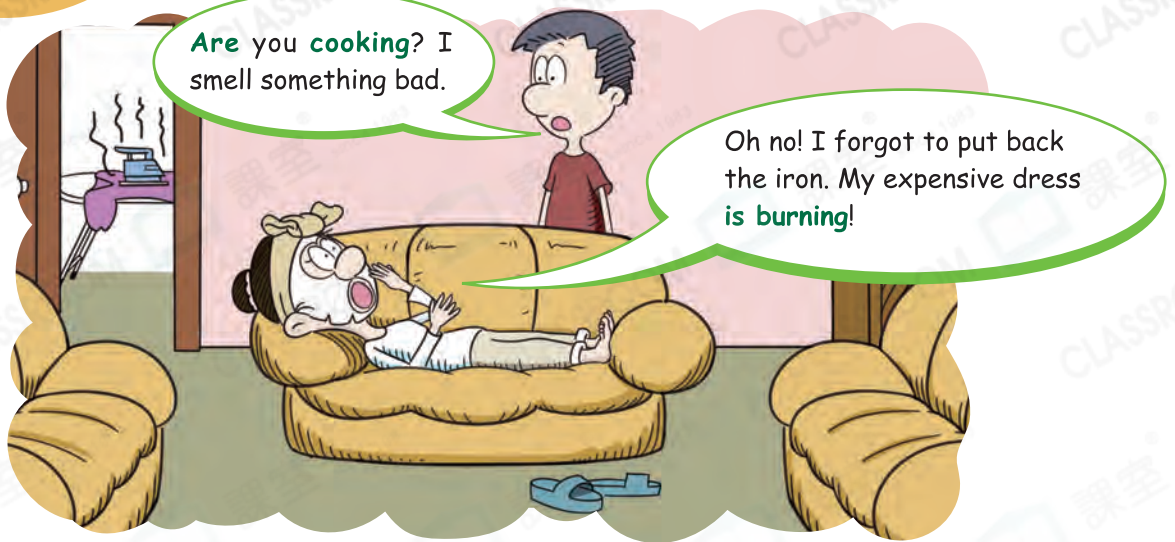


2

The present continuous



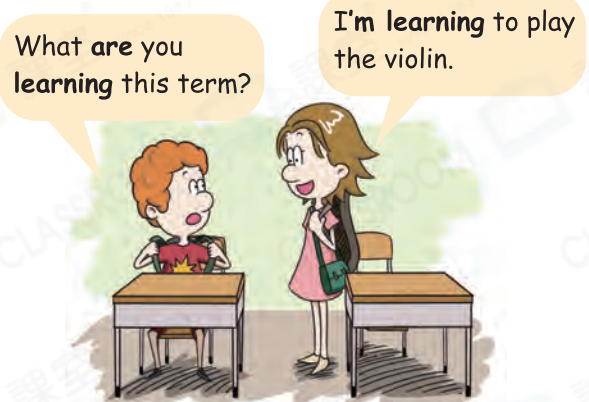
Usage

We use the present continuous tense to:

1. talk about what is going on at the time of speaking or writing.
2. talk about temporary situations.



We usually use the present continuous tense with time expressions such as *now* and *at the moment*.



We usually use the present continuous tense with time expressions such as *currently*, *this week / month*, and *at present*.

3. describe the actions in photos or pictures.

Look! In this photo, your husband is kissing you.



And I am blushing.



Part 1 Statements

We form statements in the present continuous tense in the following ways:

Positive statement		
I	am / 'm	playing.
You / We / They	are / 're	
He / She / It	is / 's	

Negative statement		
I	am not / 'm not	playing.
You / We / They	are not / aren't	
He / She / It	is not / isn't	

When we form the continuous form of the verbs, we need to change the spelling of verbs in the following ways:

Verb	Change	Example
Most verbs	+ ing	read → read ing do → do ing
Verbs ending in -e	e + ing	make → mak ing give → g iving
Verbs ending in one vowel + a consonant (except w, x, y)	double the consonant + ing	set → set ting run → run ning
Verbs ending in -ie	ie + y + ing	lie → lying die → dying

Exercise 1

Claire is talking on the phone with Daniel. She is describing what is happening at the Avenue of Stars. Complete her description with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.



- Ella and Flora _____ (buy) souvenirs at the stall.
- The painter _____ (paint) a portrait of Mrs Davies.
- Mrs Davies _____ (pose) for a portrait.
- James and Charles _____ (chat) happily.
- Lucy _____ (fall) from the handrail!



Part 2 Yes / No-questions

We form *yes / no*-questions and short answers in the present continuous tense in the following ways:

Question		
Am	I	talking too much?
Are	you / we / they	
Is	he / she / it	

Short answer		
Yes,	I	am.
	you / we / they	are.
	he / she / it	is.
No,	I	am not / 'm not.
	you / we / they	are not / aren't.
	he / she / it	is not / isn't.

Exercise 2


Form questions and answers using the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. A: Is Matt playing online games? (Matt / play online games)

B: No, he is not / he isn't.

2. A: _____ (you / go home)

B: Yes, I am.

3. A:  Am I attracting your attention?

B: No, _____.

4. A: Is the bull rushing towards a blue cape?

B: No, _____.



5. A: _____ (we / set off for Beijing)

B: No, _____.

6. A: _____ (the dog / bite Mr Hughes)

B: Yes, _____!

7. A: _____ (the students / lie to the teacher)

B: Yes, _____.



Part 3 Other Verbs

Some verbs are **NOT** usually used in the continuous form. These verbs usually show non-actions such as senses, feelings, **possession** and states of mind. Here are some common examples:

Sense	see, hear, smell, taste, feel
Feeling	like, want, love, hate, prefer
Possession	belong, own, possess, have
State of mind	know, forget, remember, believe, need, guess, hope
Others	seem, sound, consist, appear, cost, contain

e.g. ✗ *I am knowing* the answer.

✓ *I know* the answer.

e.g. ✗ *Her diet is mainly consisting* of vegetables.

✓ *Her diet mainly consists* of vegetables.



Exercise 3.1

Draw a line to link up all the verbs that are **NOT** usually used in the continuous form. Then, find out the hidden picture.

talk	stay	need	build	draw	rest
run	ride	sound	consist	go	feed
sit	shout	forget	sleep	smell	eat
write	bring	have	drink	love	throw
wait	cry	want	blow	hate	paint
fight	stick	remember	seem	hide	burn
see	own	possess	cost	hear	believe
study	Start	watch	dance	Finish	send

What is the hidden picture? _____



Vocabulary:

possession (n.): the state of having or owning something



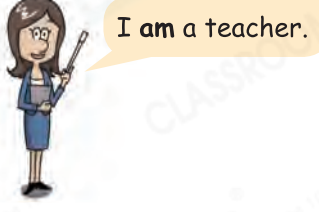

consist of (ph.): to be formed from the things or people mentioned



Educator's Tips



Don't mix up the simple present tense with the present continuous tense.

The simple present	The present continuous
<p>(a) an action that happens regularly</p> 	<p>(a) an action that is happening now</p> 
<p>(b) a state of now</p> 	<p>(b) a situation that is temporary</p> 

Exercise 3.2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- Can you turn off the television? Your brother _____ (revise) for his exam.
- _____ Mr Brown _____ (lie) in bed at present?
- Water _____ (freeze) at 0°C.
- Look at this photo. June and Alan _____ (explore) the cave.
- Look! The birds _____ (sing) on the tree!
- Mavis doesn't like apples. She _____ (prefer) strawberries.
- _____ you _____ (travel) in Venice at the moment?
- This school bag is not Kelly's. It _____ (belong) to Michelle.
- The sisters _____ (not go) to school this week.
- _____ the cafe _____ (make) fresh coffee every day?

Theme: Travelling**Text Type:** Personal letter

Unit Recap

Nicole wrote a letter to her pen pal, Lucy, but she made some mistakes about the verbs. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

Dear Lucy,

How are things in Prague? (1) Are you like your new school life? Do you have new friends? I (2) am hoping everything is well.

Alfred and I (3) spend a wonderful time in Paris. The weather (4) is being nice today. The sun is shining warmly right now. I (5) write a letter to you in a café next to the Seine. Some people (6) picnic on the banks of this famous river, while some (7) are sunbatheing. From their faces, I can tell that they have relaxed well. The French really (8) are knowing how to enjoy life!

At the moment, Alfred (9) drinks hot black coffee. I (10) am prefering latte. It tastes less bitter, but both of them (11) are smelling very good!

Alfred (12) is needing to go back to work so we will leave tomorrow. However, actually, I (13) am not wanting to go back to Hong Kong so early! That's all for now. I look forward to your letter!

Love,
Nicole



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____