

Present Progressive

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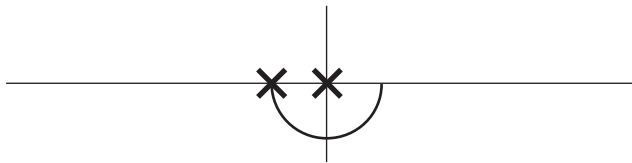
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Grammar Notes

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

A. Use

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

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

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.

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

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

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

	Nouns	Contractions	
Singular	That driver is not stopping at the red light.	That driver's not stopping at the red light. (possible, but informal)	That driver isn't stopping at the red light. (more common)
Plural	The students are not paying attention.	—	The students aren't paying 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 bothering you?	Yes, you are .	No, you're not . / No, you aren't .
	Are you studying right now?	Yes, I am .	No, I'm not .
	Is he doing his laundry?	Yes, he is .	No, he's not . / No, he isn't .
	Is she playing basketball?	Yes, she is .	No, she's not . / No, she isn't .
	Is it snowing ?	Yes, it is .	No, it's not . / No, it isn't .
Plural	Are we getting a raise?	Yes, we are .	No, we're not . / No, we aren't .
	Are you packing for your trip?	Yes, we are .	No, we're not . / No, we aren't .
	Are they shopping ?	Yes, they are .	No, they're not . / No, they aren't .

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

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 are you doing now?	I'm doing my homework.
Who is she texting ?	She's texting her roommate.
Why are your friends running ?	Their teacher is telling 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"> run → running forget → forgetting put → putting
2	If the verb ends in <i>-e</i> , drop it and add <i>-ing</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write → writing give → giving choose → choosing
3	For almost all other cases, add <i>-ing</i> to the base verb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> catch → catching ski → skiing try → trying
4	There are a few exceptions to the normal spelling rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lie → lying visit → visiting panic → panicking

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

WRITING

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.
1. Mohammed _____ mathematics. He _____ history.
 2. The boys _____ soccer. They _____ hockey.
 3. I _____ coffee. I _____ tea.
 4. She _____ a letter to her grandmother. She _____ to her aunt.
 5. We _____ a new car. We _____ a used car.
 6. I _____ fish for dinner. I _____ steak.
 7. She _____ sports on TV. She _____ a movie.
 8. The tourists _____ Chinese. They _____ Japanese.
 9. He _____ a cigarette. He _____ a pipe.
 10. She _____ the dishes. She _____ her clothes.
 11. They _____ to classical music. They _____ to rock music.
 12. We _____ to Hawaii for our vacation. We _____ to Mexico.
 13. It _____ inside the house. It _____ outside.
 14. 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

FIND THE ERROR

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.

Exercise 9

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

1. _____ learning English quickly.
a) You's
b) You're
2. Ahmed _____ his car.
a) are washing
b) is washing
3. _____ your homework right now?
a) Are you doing
b) Are doing you
4. I _____ to the radio at the moment.
a) not listening
b) am not listening
5. Tara is _____ the plates on the table.
a) putting
b) puting
6. Is he watching TV? Yes, _____.
a) he's
b) he is
7. We _____ the apartment. The guests will be here soon.
a) are cleaning
b) is cleaning
8. My father _____ in his favorite chair.
a) is siting
b) is sitting
9. Why _____ ?
a) is she crying
b) is crying she
10. Are you thinking about your family? No, I _____.
a) amn't
b) 'm not

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn the patterns and usage of the present progressive tense. They practice making affirmative and negative sentences as well as questions.

LEVEL: Beg – Low Int

TIME: 2 hours

TAGS: present progressive, present continuous, verb tenses, time markers, sentence patterns, questions, negative sentences

Exercise 1

Answers may vary slightly (contractions may be used).

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. is making | 6. are dancing | 11. are eating |
| 2. is fixing | 7. is raining | 12. is sneezing |
| 3. are listening | 8. is wearing | 13. are reading |
| 4. is playing | 9. is washing | 14. is snoring |
| 5. is studying | 10. is buying | |

Exercise 2

Answers will vary. You can make this task more interactive by pairing up students. You can also make it competitive by telling students that the first pair to write 10 correct sentences is the winner. Possible answers:

- The woman is buying / paying for / ordering a hot dog.
- The woman is selling / handing over a hot dog.
- The squirrel is holding / eating an acorn.
- The bird / pigeon is eating some seeds.
- The boy is holding a balloon.
- The man is loading / putting groceries into his trunk.
- The old man is reading a newspaper / sitting on a bench.
- The girl is walking her dog.
- The girl is reading / sitting in front of / beside the fountain.
- The bird is singing.
- The man / woman is having a picnic / drinking / sitting on a blanket.
- The child is hiding behind a tree.
- The woman is pushing a baby stroller / walking down the sidewalk.
- The man is driving.

Exercise 3

Answers may vary slightly (contractions may be used).

- isn't studying / is studying
- aren't playing / are playing
- am not drinking / am drinking
- isn't writing / is writing
- aren't driving / are driving
- am not eating / am eating
- isn't watching / is watching
- aren't speaking / are speaking
- isn't smoking / is smoking
- isn't washing / is washing
- aren't listening / are listening
- aren't going / are going
- isn't snowing / is snowing
- isn't riding / is riding

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 4

1. Yes, she is.
2. No, I'm not.
3. No, they're not. / No, they aren't.
4. No, I'm not.
5. Yes, it / he / she is.
6. No, she's not. / No, she isn't.
7. Yes, they are.
8. No, he's not. / No, he isn't.
9. Yes, he is.
10. Yes, she is.

Exercise 5

You can decide if you want to let any student yell out a question or have them take turns. If you have a small class, you could have each performing student do five actions instead of just one before they sit back down. Alternatively, each student can perform as many actions as they can in a certain time frame (e.g., one minute).

If you require more cards, use the blank card templates in our Resources section to create your own actions, or have students fill in actions of their choice: <https://app.ellii.com/lesson/2463-card-templates>

Exercise 6

Answers may vary.

Encourage your students not to use *what* for every question.

1. Where is he going?
2. What is the teacher doing?
3. Why are you studying?
4. Who are you talking to?
5. What are your roommates buying?
6. Where is Kate jogging?
7. How are you doing?
8. Whose jacket is he wearing?
9. Where are you driving to?
10. Why are you taking vitamins?

Exercise 7

Answers will vary.

Exercise 8

1. My neighbor **is** mowing the lawn.
2. Are **you** studying right now?
3. I **am** not speaking to her at the moment.
4. He is **writing** an essay in class.
5. Michael and Lindy **are** watching a movie.
6. She's walking her dog **now**.
7. Where **are** you going?
8. My brothers **are** making spaghetti.
9. They're **skiing** down the mountain.
10. My friends **are** playing baseball now.

Exercise 9

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. a | 5. a | 7. a | 9. a |
| 2. b | 4. b | 6. b | 8. b | 10. b |

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Neighbor* and *Favorite*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Neighbour* and *Favourite*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. For practice comparing the simple present and the present progressive tenses in mixed exercises, try our Simple Present Vs. Present Progressive lesson: <https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets/1593-simple-present-vs-present-progressive>
2. Note that the present progressive can also be used to indicate a future action (e.g., *We are flying to Seattle next weekend*). You can find further explanation and practice exercises in our Simple Future lesson: <https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets/1596-simple-future>

Action Cards

Use these cards with Exercises 5 and 7.

sing	run	iron a shirt	play cards
swim	wash a car	wake up	make dinner
put on makeup	eat spaghetti	make a sandwich	plant a flower
brush your teeth	play basketball	read a book	watch TV
walk a dog	pet a cat	make cookies	change a light bulb
play volleyball	vacuum	text someone	take a selfie

Action Cards cont.

wave at someone	light a candle	play the guitar	dry your hair
play a video game	watch a movie	play the piano	take a picture
watch fireworks	play the drums	go hiking	mow the lawn
sleep	paint your nails	paint a picture	study
go to bed	walk	dance	stand up
sit down	throw a ball	catch a ball	kick a ball