

Grammar Sense 1

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Grammar Sense

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PART

4

The Present

CHAPTER

8

The Present Continuous

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A

People Watching

A1 Before You Read



Discuss these questions.

What is a journal? Do you write in a journal? What do you write about?

A2 Read



CD1 T34 Read this journal entry. What is the writer doing?

It's morning—my favorite time of day in Seattle. The city is waking up and I am, too. I'm sitting in a small coffee shop. Outside, the weather is gloomy. It's cloudy, but it isn't raining. Two people are waiting at the bus stop. The woman is angry. She is pointing to
5 *her watch. She's complaining to the man next to her. He isn't listening. He's reading his newspaper. A man and woman are sitting on a bench. They're about 25. The woman is wearing a waitress's uniform. The man is wearing a bus driver's uniform. They aren't talking. A couple is standing near them. They're both about 40. They are carrying*
10 *briefcases and wearing expensive clothes. They aren't talking and they aren't smiling. They are married—I'm sure. Are they fighting? Maybe.*



bench: a long seat for two or more people
complaining: expressing negative feelings about someone or something

couple: two people
gloomy: dark and depressing
perhaps: maybe

A3 After You Read

Write *T* for true or *F* for false for each statement.

- F* 1. The writer is waiting for the bus.
- 2. The sun is shining.
- 3. A woman is complaining.
- 4. A woman is reading the newspaper.
- 5. A man and a woman are sitting on a bench.
- 6. A couple is standing near the bench.

B

FORM

The Present Continuous



Think Critically About Form

- A.** Look back at the journal entry on page 120 and complete the tasks below.
- IDENTIFY** Look at the two underlined examples of the affirmative form of the present continuous. Each has two words. What are they?
 - RECOGNIZE** Find three more affirmative examples of the present continuous.
 - RECOGNIZE** Look at the circled examples of the negative form of the present continuous. Find three more negative examples.
- B.** Discuss your answers with class and read the Form charts to check them.



AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENTS			
SUBJECT	BE	BASE FORM OF VERB + -ING	
I	am	waiting.	
You	are		
He	is		
She			
It			
We	are		
You			
They			

NEGATIVE STATEMENTS			
SUBJECT	BE	NOT	BASE FORM OF VERB + -ING
I	am	not	waiting.
You	are		
He	is		
She			
It			
We	are		
You			
They			

CONTRACTIONS	
I'm	waiting.
You're	
He's	
They're	

CONTRACTIONS	
I'm not	waiting.
You're not You aren't	
He's not He isn't	
They're not They aren't	

- The contraction of *I + am + not* has only one form (**I'm not**).
- The contractions of all other subject pronouns + *be + not* have two possible forms. The meaning of these forms is the same.
 you **aren't** = you're not he **isn't** = he's not
- See Appendix 3 for spelling rules for verbs ending in *-ing*.

YES/NO QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS				
BE	SUBJECT	BASE FORM OF VERB + -ING	YES	SUBJECT	BE	NO	BASE FORM OF VERB + -ING
Am	I	waiting.	Yes,	you	are.	No,	you aren't . you're not .
Are	you			I	am.		I'm not .
Is	she			she	is.		she isn't . she's not .
Are	we			you	are.		you aren't . you're not .
	you			we			we aren't . we're not .
	they			they			they aren't . they're not .

INFORMATION QUESTIONS				ANSWERS	
WH- WORD	BE	SUBJECT	BASE FORM OF VERB + -ING		
How	am	I	doing?	Great.	
What	are	you		I'm cooking dinner.	
Who	is	he	calling?	He's calling David.	
Why	are	you	waiting?	Because we missed the bus.	
Where		they		In the cafeteria.	
WH- WORD (SUBJECT)	BE		BASE FORM OF VERB + -ING		
Who	is		talking?	Sasha.	
What			cooking?	Your dinner is cooking .	

(Continued on page 124)

Yes/No Questions



Do not use contractions in affirmative short answers.

Yes, **I am**.

Yes, **he is**.

X Yes, I'm. (incorrect)

X Yes, he's. (incorrect)

- Use either form of a negative contraction in negative short answers.

No, you're not. = No, you **aren't**. No, she isn't. = No, she's **not**.

- Negative short answers with the pronoun *I* have only one form.

No, I'm **not**.

Information Questions

- It is not necessary to answer an information question with a complete sentence.

A: Who is he calling?

B: (He's calling) Amy.

- When *who* or *what* is the subject of the question, do not use a subject pronoun.

B1 Listening for Form



CD1 T35

Listen to Mark and Gloria's telephone conversation. Choose the short answer you hear.

- a. No, he's not. 5. a. No, it's not.

b. No, I'm not. b. No, they're not.

c. No, we aren't. c. No, he's not.
- a. Yes, I am. 6. a. Yes, he is.

b. Yes, it is. b. Yes, she is.

c. Yes, she is. c. Yes, it is.
- a. Yes, he is. 7. a. No, it isn't.

b. Yes, it is. b. No, he isn't.

c. Yes, she is. c. No, it's not.
- a. Yes, she is. 8. a. Yes, I am.

b. Yes, he is. b. Yes, we are.

c. Yes, it is. c. Yes, they are.

B2 Spelling the Present Continuous

Complete each sentence with the present continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1. He _____ *is losing* _____ (lose) the game.
2. I _____ (stop) for lunch.
3. She _____ (hug) her child.
4. We _____ (sit) on the couch.
5. They _____ (come) up the street.
6. You _____ (study) hard.
7. Paul and Susan _____ (exercise) at the gym.
8. Lee _____ (argue) with her sister.

B3 Working with Affirmative and Negative Statements

Change the affirmative statements to negative statements. Rewrite the sentences in two different ways when possible.

1. It's raining right now.

It's not raining right now. It isn't raining right now.

2. It's snowing in Maine.

3. The children are playing outside.

4. Celia is exercising at the gym.

5. I am fixing the car.

6. We are studying.

B4 Writing Yes/No Questions

Complete the conversations with *Yes/No* questions. Use the words and phrases in parentheses and the present continuous. Punctuate your sentences correctly.

- A: Excuse me. Are you looking for something? (you/look for something)
B: Yes. Where's the shampoo?
- A: _____ (it/rain)
B: No. The sun is shining.
- A: _____ (I/pass the course)
B: Yes, you are. In fact you are doing very well!
- A: _____ (the kids/play outside)
B: No, they're at the movies.
- A: _____ (she/listen to a CD)
B: No. She is playing the piano.
- A: _____ (you/study Japanese)
B: Yes. I'm taking classes at the community college.

B5 Writing Information Questions

Write information questions in your notebook about the underlined words in the statements. Punctuate your sentences correctly.

- Reiko is reading a magazine.
What is Reiko reading?
- Eva is studying French.
- Naomi is sitting in the kitchen.
- Celia is drinking coffee.
- Tom is feeling fine.
- John's father is watching television.

C

MEANING AND USE

The Present Continuous



Think Critically About Meaning and Use

- A.** Read the sentences and answer the questions below.
- a. **Julie:** Here, take your umbrella. It's raining.
Paulo: Thanks. That's a good idea.
- b. **Steve:** Hi Carol. How are you?
Carol: I'm very busy this week. I'm writing a long research paper.
- 1. EVALUATE** Which underlined sentence talks about an activity that is in progress (happening) at the moment the speaker is talking?
- 2. EVALUATE** Which underlined sentence talks about an activity that is in not happening at the moment the speaker is talking?
- B.** Discuss your answers with the class and read the Meaning and Use Notes to check them.

Meaning and Use Notes



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Activities in Progress

- **1A** Use the present continuous to talk about activities that are in progress (happening) at the exact moment of speaking. Time expressions such as *now*, *right now*, and *at the moment* make the meaning clearer.
- A: What are you **doing**?
- B: I'm **studying** for my chemistry test.
- A: How is the weather there in Michigan?
- B: **It's snowing** right now.
- **1B** Use the present continuous for activities that are in progress, but are not happening at the exact moment of speaking. Time expressions such as *still*, *these days*, *this week*, and *this semester* make the meaning clearer.
- Two Former Classmates Meet on the Street**
- A: So, Rick, what are you **doing** these days?
- B: I'm still **working** for my dad.

C1 Listening for Meaning and Use

► Notes 1A, 1B

- CD1 T36 Listen to the conversations. Which activities in progress are happening right now? Which are not happening right now? Check (✓) the correct column.

	HAPPENING RIGHT NOW	NOT HAPPENING RIGHT NOW
1.	✓	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

C2 Describing Activities in Progress

► Note 1A

Look at the pictures. Then write a sentence in your notebook to describe each picture. Use contractions when possible.



He's reading a newspaper.



C3 Talking About Activities in Progress but Not Right Now

► Note 1B

- A. Read the list of activities. Put a check (✓) in the box for activities that you are doing these days. Put an X in the box for activities that you are not doing these days.

	ACTIVITIES	✓ / X
1.	studying hard	
2.	working	
3.	playing a sport	
4.	learning Chinese	
5.	cooking dinner at home	
6.	planning a trip	
7.	dieting	
8.	learning to play an instrument	



- B. Work with a partner. Ask and answer Yes/No questions and information questions about the information in part A.

A: *What are you doing these days?*

B: *I'm studying hard.*

A: *Are you working, too?*

C4 Guessing Activities in Progress

► Note 1A



- Work in groups. Think of an activity, or use a suggestion from the list below. Act out the activity for the group, but don't say what activity you are doing. Your group asks Yes/No questions to guess what you are doing.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES		
riding a bicycle	driving a truck	playing basketball
shopping	arguing with your roommate	running a race

A: *Are you riding a horse?*

B: *No, I'm not.*

A: *You are riding a bicycle!*

B: *Yes, I am.*

Beyond the Sentence

Combining Sentences with *And*

We can use *and* to combine sentences. Use a comma when you combine two complete sentences.

I am taking a shower. Alex is making dinner.

I am taking a shower, **and** Alex is making dinner.

When two affirmative present continuous sentences have the same subject, we usually don't repeat the subject or *am/is/are*. In this case, we do not use a comma.

He is doing his homework. **He is watching** television.

He is doing his homework **and** **watching** television.

When we write, we combine sentences because it makes our writing sound more natural. Compare these two paragraphs.

A.

Everyone in my family is very busy. My father is working out of town during the week. My father is coaching a soccer team on the weekends. My mother is teaching at the university. My mother is trying to start her own business. My brother Josh is going to law school. My brother Josh is working at a law firm.

B.

Everyone in my family is very busy. My father is working out of town during the week **and** coaching a soccer team on the weekends. My mother is teaching at the university **and** trying to start her own business. My brother Josh is going to law school **and** working at a law firm.

C5 Combing Sentences with *And*

Rewrite the paragraph in your notebook. Use *and* to combine the underlined sentences. Punctuate your sentences correctly.

Dear Luisa,

Thanks for your letter. We're very busy, too. We're working hard. We're saving money. Celia is teaching piano at the local high school. She's giving private lessons on the weekends. I'm finishing my Ph.D. I'm writing my dissertation. Right now, Celia is making dinner. Our daughter Lucy is helping her...

Thanks for your letter. We're very busy, too. We're working hard and saving money. Celia...

WRITING Write About a Public Place



Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Complete each conversation.

1. A: Where is she going?

B: _____

a. Now.

b. To the library.

2. A: Are you sleeping?

B: _____

a. Yes, I'm studying.

b. No, I'm not.

3. A: Who is working with you?

B: _____

a. Susan.

b. Now.

4. A: What are you doing these days?

B: _____

a. I'm taking a bath.

b. I'm looking for a new job.

B. Discuss these questions in small groups.

1. **EVALUATE** Which questions talk about events that are happening but not at the exact moment that the speaker is talking?

2. **GENERATE** Create two sentences about something you are doing but not at this exact moment.

Edit

Find the errors in this letter and correct them.

Dear Gina,

~~stand~~ ^{standing}

I'm ~~stand~~ in front of your apartment. Unfortunately, you're not at home, so I writing you this note. My husband Dan and I are visiting our families. We're live in San Diego now. Dan working for a telecommunications company, and I'm looking for a job. What you are doing these days? Are you still write for the newspaper? Call me at my mother's house and please visit us!

Miss you,

Holly

Write

Write a paragraph about activities and events that you see at a public place. Use the present continuous.

- BRAINSTORM** List all the important information about the public place you are writing about. Use these questions to help.
 - Where are you?
 - What are you doing?
 - What other people do you see?
 - What are they doing?
 - Where are they going?
 - What else is happening around you?
- WRITE A FIRST DRAFT** Before you write your first draft, read the checklist below and look at the example on page 120. Write your draft using the present continuous.
- EDIT** Read your work and check it against the checklist below. Circle grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

DO I ...	YES
use affirmative statements?	<input type="checkbox"/>
use negative statements?	<input type="checkbox"/>
ask questions about my surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>
use <i>wh</i> - questions words?	<input type="checkbox"/>
use the present continuous for events that are happening now?	<input type="checkbox"/>
use the present continuous for events that are not happening at the exact moment?	<input type="checkbox"/>

- PEER REVIEW** Work with a partner to help you decide how to fix your errors and improve the content.
- REWRITE YOUR DRAFT** Using the comments from your partner, write a final draft.

I'm sitting in a park. A man is reading the newspaper and eating a sandwich... Is it raining? No, it isn't raining yet.

CHAPTER

9

The Simple Present

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B. FORM 1: Simple Present Statements 136
They live in Texas.
Pronunciation Notes: Pronunciation of Verbs Ending in -s and -es

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Does she work? Yes, she does.

D. FORM 3: Simple Present Information Questions 143
When do we eat dinner?

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