

GRAMMAR CHECK-UP!

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

In which of these situations do you think we use the *present continuous (progressive) form* in English..?

To talk about...

- things that are happening now?
- things we are or do regularly or all the time?
- things that are permanent or generally true?
- habits and situations that are temporary?
- things that are changing over time?
- definite future plans?
- present events that are connected to the past?

FORM:

DO

**I AM DOING • YOU ARE DOING •
HE/SHE/IT IS DOING • WE/THEY ARE
DOING**

**I'M NOT DOING • YOU/WE/THEY ARE'NT
DOING • HE/SHE/IT ISN'T DOING**

ARE YOU DOING?

**Check out your knowledge and understanding
below...**

We use the **present continuous tense form** to talk about:

- **things that are happening now**

Example: He's **playing** football *at the moment* so he can't answer his phone.

I'm **not waiting** any longer for them to arrive - I'm **leaving** *now*!

Key words: *(right) now, at the moment, currently*

- **habits and situations that are temporary**

Example: She's **living** in London *for a few months* while she's **studying** for her MBA.

He **is working** very long hours *these days*.

Key words: *while, for a few days/weeks/months, these days*

- **annoying habits (with keep)**

Example: They **keep playing** their music really loudly in the evening.

- **things that are changing over time**

Example: The cost of living **is going** up every year but we **are not getting** higher wages.

- **definite future (with time/time phrase, date etc.)**

Example: We're **visiting** several clients *next week* and **are staying** close to the city centre.

Key words: *tomorrow, next week/month, at 3pm, on Friday, at the weekend, on the 14th,*

For things we do regularly or situations that are permanent, or generally true, we use the **simple present form**. For situations and events in the present that are connected to the past we use the **present perfect form**.

If you would like to know more about English grammar, or check your knowledge and understanding, take a look at our other **Grammar check up!** resources or **sign up** for a one-to-one **online** course with **class-e**.