

## TEACHING THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Время Present Continuous вводится на уровне A1, закрепляется и обогащается примерами. На уровне A1-A2 объясняются следующие правила: 1) action taking place now and around now; 2) fixed future plans; 3) changes and trends we can currently observe; 4) annoying behavior. В дальнейшем добавляются такие значения, как: 1) repeated behavior 2) emotional refusal. Кроме того, изучается употребление статичных глаголов в значении действия и в значении состояния. И важность всех этих различий надо обосновывать. Например, 'You are selfish.' звучит как приговор, а 'You're being selfish.' показывает, что только в данный момент поведение собеседника не самое приятное. Для иллюстрации употребления этого грамматического явления, не имеющего аналога в русском языке, надо находить убедительный материал. Это может быть и творческое задание (интервью с партнером), и отрывок из книги или фильма, или интересная история, рассказанная учителем. Могу поделиться одной. I remember a scene from a French film. A young couple are having a romantic date; the window is open, as they don't think they're doing something indecent. Then the young man says that he has decided to split up with her. She starts crying and shouts at him, "Close the window! I'm crying."

Предлагаемый здесь материал предназначен для введения и первичного закрепления Present Continuous.

### Grammar & Language Practice: Present continuous

#### I

Введение начинается с разбора таблиц. Взрослые слушатели подходят к изучению языка аналитически и ничего не имеют против подробного обсуждения правил.

#### 1 Study the rules.

**Rule 1:** The present continuous tense denotes:

**a)** action in progress now and around now and **b)** fixed plans.

**Rule 2:** The following verbs are not usually used in the present continuous tense: *like, know, believe, understand, want, need, decide, mean, recognise, realise* and some others.

<i>Affirmative sentences</i>	<i>Negative sentences</i>	<i>Interrogative sentences</i>	<i>Signal words</i>
I <b>am</b> working now. He <b>is</b> working now. They <b>are</b> working now.	I <b>am not</b> working now. She <b>is not/isn't</b> working now. You <b>are not/aren't</b> working.	<b>Am</b> I working today? <b>Is</b> it working? <b>Are</b> we working now?	now; today; at the moment; tonight; tomorrow; etc

**NB** Mind the changes in spelling: *move* – *moving*      *swim* – *swimming*      *lie* – *lying*

#### II

Далее выполняются задания, которые (для себя) можно считать механическими, не требующими серьезных усилий.

**2A a)** Say which of the sentences below denote action in progress and which denote fixed plans.

**b)** Make the sentences below negative and interrogative, using the present continuous tense.

E.g. - Jane is coming to dinner tonight. – Jane isn't coming to dinner... - Is Jane coming to dinner ...?

1. My boss is leaving for London on Monday morning.
2. I am dying of hunger!
3. We are working late this week.
4. My friend is decorating her new flat at the moment.
5. The children are studying Spanish this year.
6. Gillian and David are getting married on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.
7. You are driving very fast.
8. It is raining today.
9. They are going to the club tonight.
10. My brother is travelling in the USA now.

Задание рассказать, что делают люди на картинке, проверено временем, выполняется с удовольствием, потому что легко. Разумеется, для занятий надо заготовить несколько подобных картинок. Найти их очень легко. Можно попросить учеников показать фотографии на их смартфоне, и пусть расскажут, что они или кто-то делают на фотографии.

**2B** Look at the picture and answer the questions.



1. Is the sun shining?
2. How many people are lying on the deck chairs?
3. What is the woman under the red umbrella doing?
4. What are the children doing?
5. Is anybody wearing jeans?
6. What is the man wearing green shorts and a blue T-shirt doing?
7. What is the woman posing for the camera wearing?
8. How many people are wearing swimsuits?
9. Is anybody eating or drinking?
10. Is anybody doing surfing?
11. Who is running around?
12. Is anybody listening to music?
13. What are the young people playing the ball wearing?

### III

В предлагаемом отрывке учитель и ученица «работают» с этим временем, а также употребляют его в ситуации реального общения. Понимание англоязычного текста — это удовольствие для ученика, а интерпретация текста заставляет употреблять новое грамматическое явление.

#### Reading & Language Practice

**1A** Read the text abridged from *One Day* by David Nicholls, English writer (b.1966)

#### BACK TO LIFE

*Dexter, a 24-year-old Brit, is working as an English teacher at a language school in Rome.*

'Shaf-tes-bury Avenue.'  
 'No, Shafts-bury.'  
 'Lychester Square.'  
 'Leicester Square.'  
 'Why not Ly-chester?'  
 'No idea.'  
 'But you are my teacher.'  
 'Sorry.'



'Well, I think it is stupid language,' said Tove Andstrom, and punched him in the shoulder.  
 'A stupid language. I couldn't agree with you more. No need to hit me.'  
 'I apologise,' said Tove, kissing his shoulder.

They lay in a tangle of cushions on the terracotta floor of his tiny room. His room in the Centro Storico was dull and institutional, but there was a balcony overlooking a picturesque square that, in a very Roman way, also functioned as a car park.

'Tove, I've got to go. I'm meeting my parents, I've got to leave now.'

'Can I come too?'

He laughed. 'Don't think so, Tove. Besides, you've got a grammar test on Monday. Go and revise.'

'You test me. Test me now.'

'Okay, verbs, Present Continuous.'

She coiled one leg around him. 'I am kissing, you are kissing, he is kissing, she is kissing...'

**2B** Say if the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. Tove Andstrom isn't British.
2. Tove and Dexter are having a love affair.
3. Tove enjoys learning English.
4. Dexter agrees with Tove that English is a stupid language.
5. Dexter is living in the city centre.
6. Dexter's room is quite big.

Следующее задание комбинированное: прочесть и понять отрывок из письма и вставить слова в текст. Далее надо ответить на письмо, рассказав о своей жизни от имени героя и ответив на вопросы в письме. Для этого ученики снова обращаются к тексту и, разумеется, используют свое воображение.

**2C** Read the extract from the letter that Dexter's friend Emma wrote to him. (from the same book)

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

those	this	room	much	could	sent	coming	like
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And how is Rome? How is La Dolce Vita? I imagine you right now at a café table, drinking one of \_\_\_\_\_ 'cappuccinos' we hear so \_\_\_\_\_ about. You're probably wearing sunglasses to read \_\_\_\_\_. Well, take them off, you look ridiculous. Did you get the books I \_\_\_\_\_ you? And how is teaching?

In the meantime, I have to choose whether to sign-on in Leeds or sign-on in London. My old flatmate Tilly Killick has a spare \_\_\_\_\_ in Clapton (*a district in east London*). What's Clapton \_\_\_\_\_? Are you \_\_\_\_\_ back to London soon? Hey! Maybe we \_\_\_\_\_ be flatmates?

**2D** Answer the letter as if you were Dexter. Write about his life in Rome, his teaching experience and try to answer Emma's questions.

#### IV

Данный вид работы очень продуктивный: предложены ситуации, показывающие, в каком контексте употребляется это время. Предложены модели, в которые ученики вставляют глаголы, и создают свои собственные предложения. Упражнения важны, как гаммы в музыке, но **языковые элементы запоминаются только, когда построишь с ними свои собственные высказывания.**

3 Study some typical patterns of the use the present continuous tense and do the tasks.

1. Ask/tell your partner to (not to) do something because you're doing something or something is happening.

E.g. -Switch on the light, please. It's getting dark. -Stop making noise! I'm studying for my exam.  
-Don't open the window! I'm changing clothes. -You can work on my computer. I'm not using it.

Use: *bother, listen to the news, play, do exercise, draw a picture, laugh at sb, meet, think, smoke, wait for sb, speak on the phone, read, etc*

2. Ask your partner to help you when you're doing something.

E.g. Could you please help us? We're pushing the car off the road.  
Can you drive me to the airport tomorrow? I'm flying to Rome.

Use: *give, cook, buy, bring, check, clean, send, bake, fix, do the washing up/wash up, etc*

3. Ask your partner about their plans for today/tonight/ Saturday night/tomorrow.

E.g. -What are you doing after classes? - I'm going to the library.  
-Are you doing anything special this weekend? -Nothing special. I'm staying in.

Use: *work, go, see, visit, etc*

4. Compare things that you do usually and are doing at the moment.

E.g. I usually get to work by car, but now that my car is in the garage I'm travelling by bus.  
I don't normally eat a lot of protein, but I'm eating meat and fish now because I'm training for a competition.

Use: *have a shower/bath, work on my own/in a team, play board games, watch TV, use, come home, call sb/text messages, read magazines, dream about, leave early/late, etc*

#### V

Предлагаю несколько видов упражнений на закрепление времени present continuous. Их можно выполнять и в классе и дома. За годы работы я убедилась: **изобилие упражнений не пугает, а успокаивает!** Ученики знают, что еще не раз попрактикуются и, если сделали ошибку сейчас, то еще будет много возможностей ее исправить.

1 Underline the correct form of the verb, the present simple or the present continuous tense.

1. *Do you believe/Are you believing* in ghosts, witches and vampires?
2. It *doesn't rain/isn't raining* now, but it usually *rains/is raining* at this time of year.
3. Look! Something strange *happens/is happening*.
4. My girlfriend is usually very busy – she *works/is working* shifts and *studies/is studying* at university. And this year, she *takes/is taking* a dance class.
5. - What *do you do/are you doing* at the moment? – I *listen/am listening* to music.
6. We *have/are having* a fancy dress party this Friday. *Do you want/are you wanting* to join us?
7. My friend usually *drinks/is drinking* white wine but today she *drinks/is drinking* beer.
8. The children *don't clean/aren't cleaning* their room now, they *build/are building* a toy castle.
9. What do you normally *say/are saying* when you are late?
10. Sophia *leaves/is leaving* for Sicily next month. I *want/am wanting* to visit her there one day.
11. He is so slim! He never *eats/is eating* proteins and carbohydrates at the same meal.
12. Jane *lies/is lying* on the grass watching the clouds. They *float/are floating* in the sky. The birds *sing/are singing*, the sun *shines/is shining*. Jane always *enjoys/is enjoying* being close to nature.

2 Use proper forms of the present continuous tense. Add time markers given below to make the sentences true for you. E.g. I am (not) seeing my manager on Monday morning.

-tonight                    -now                                    -this week                            -on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May                    -tomorrow  
-next week                    -at the weekend                    -on Friday evening                    -after our class                    -at the moment

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (start) a new life \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (work/study) \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. My friends \_\_\_\_\_ (come) round to dinner \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. My friend \_\_\_\_\_ (take) his/her exam/driving test \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Our teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (give) us a test \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. My boss/colleague \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a holiday \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out \_\_\_\_\_ . I \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in with my family.
8. My friends and I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. Our company \_\_\_\_\_ (hire) new workers \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. My parents/friends \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a car/flat/fridge \_\_\_\_\_ .

3 a) Complete the gaps with proper present continuous forms of the verbs in brackets. Mind the spelling.

b) Make these sentences negative and interrogative.

E.g. – Ann \_\_\_\_\_ (read) now. – Ann is reading now. Ann isn't reading now. Is Ann reading now?

1. Tina \_\_\_\_\_ (take) driving lessons this year.
2. My friends \_\_\_\_\_ (build) a house.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) to a diet at the moment.
4. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ (cry).
5. Jack \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) down old trees in the garden.
6. My friend \_\_\_\_\_ (run) a marathon this Sunday.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) on the beach right now.
8. The children \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a cartoon at the moment.
9. They \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the game!
10. My son \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about changing his job now.
11. They \_\_\_\_\_ (follow) us.
12. We \_\_\_\_\_ (study) the present continuous tense now.

4 Read the letter. Choose the correct tense form, the present simple or present continuous.

Dear Margo,

How great it is to email each other from different parts of the world! It's my turn now. I *write/am writing* to you from Sicily. I'm here with my cousin and her husband. We *stay/are staying* at the Alla Giudecca Hotel in Syracuse. It's in Syracuse's historic centre and just a few meters from the sea.

Every morning we *have/are having* breakfast in the lounge. After breakfast we usually *go/are going* on excursions and *explore/are exploring* the island. Sicily has got amazing sights! But today we *have/are having* a lazy day on the beach, because it's hot and sunny. Right now, my cousin *swims/is swimming* in the sea and her husband *lies/is lying* on the sand and *sunbathes/sunbathing*. There aren't many people on the beach: three children *build/are building* a sandcastle, their parents *scroll/are scrolling* up their mobiles and an old woman *runs/is running* back and forth along the beach.

Yesterday we bought some blood oranges. They *grow/are growing* only in Sicily and are very juicy and delicious! It's our lunch for today. My cousin's husband isn't happy about it!

I'm sorry but the weather *changes/is changing* now and I *need/am needing* to go. Write to me soon.

Love and kisses,  
Marina

P.S. Find the photos  
in the attachment.



5 Write a similar letter to your friend.

PS Предложенные упражнения взяты из моего учебника *English Basic*, где их намного больше. В среднем на каждое грамматическое явление приходится от 8 до 45 (!) упражнений. Это из рукописи. Изданный учебник намного красивее)).