

ENGLISH S1: GRAMMAR –3: THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

II-Present Continuous Tense

Typically, when we want to describe a temporary action that is currently in progress, we use

the present continuous: Pauline can't come to the phone right now because she is brushing her teeth.

Form : The present continuous of any verb is composed of two parts - *the present tense of the verb to be* + *the present participle of the main verb*.

Positive

Subject + am/ is/ are + Verb - ING

She is writing to her grandma now.

Negative

Subject + am/ is/ are + not + Verb – ING Is

not = isn't

Are not = aren't

She isn't writing to her grandma now.

Question

Am/ is/ are + Subject + Verb – ING?

Is she writing to her grandma now?

Usages of Present Continuous Tense

- **To talk about things which are happening at the moment of speaking**
Don't go out. It's raining outside now.
- **To talk about things which happen again and again (a complaint)**
He's always talking in class.
- **To talk about things which are planned or arranged in the near future**
I am leaving for London tomorrow.
- **To talk about things which are changing or developing**
More and more English centers are mushrooming nowadays.

Signal words:

at the moment, now / just now / right now, look, listen

Present continuous tense can be used for actions that are still happening at the time of speaking.

- Marc is making pizza now.
- They are eating lunch right now.
- Ali is talking on the phone at the moment he is not going to the game tonight.
- He is meeting his friends after school.
- Are you visiting your cousin this weekend?
- I am not going to the meeting after work.
- Is John playing football today