

Lesson: Present continuous (or Present progressive or “be + Ing”)

The present continuous is made from the **present tense of the verb be** and the **-ing form** of a verb:

<i>I am</i>	<i>working</i>
<i>You are</i>	<i>playing</i>
<i>He is</i>	<i>talking</i>
<i>She is</i>	<i>living</i>
<i>It is</i>	<i>eating</i>
<i>We are</i>	<i>staying</i>
<i>They are</i>	<i>sleeping</i>

We use the present continuous to talk about:

- **activities at the moment of speaking:**(= être en train de...)

*I'm just **leaving** work. I'll be home in an hour.*

*Please be quiet. The children **are sleeping**.*

Present continuous questions

We make questions by putting **am**, **is** or **are** in front of the **subject**:

Are **you** listening?

Are **they** coming to your party?

When **is** **she** going home?

What **am** **I** doing here?

Present continuous negatives

We make negatives by putting **not** (or **n't**) after **am**, **is** or **are**:

I'm **not** doing that.

You **aren't** listening. (or You're **not** listening.)

They **aren't** coming to the party. (or They're **not** coming to the party.)

She **isn't** going home until Monday. (or She's **not** going home until Monday.)

Stative verbs (= verbes d'état)

We do **not normally** use the continuous **with stative verbs**. Stative verbs include: (Ce serait une TRES BONNE IDÉE d'aller voir le sens de ces verbes sur [wordreference](#))

- verbs of **thinking and feeling** (= **verbes de la réflexion et des sentiments**):

<i>believe</i>	<i>love</i>	<i>recognise</i>	<i>understand</i>
<i>dislike</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>remember</i>	<i>want</i>
<i>know</i>	<i>prefer</i>	<i>suppose</i>	<i>wish</i>
<i>like</i>	<i>realise</i>	<i>think</i> (= believe)	

- verbs of the senses (= **verbes se référant aux 5 sens**):

<i>appear</i>	<i>look</i>	<i>smell</i>	<i>taste</i>
<i>feel</i>	<i>seem</i>	<i>sound</i>	

- others:

<i>agree</i>	<i>belong</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>own</i>
<i>be</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>owe</i>	<i>possess</i>

We normally use the simple present instead (= in lieu of):

*I **understand** you. (NOT: I ~~am-understanding~~ you.)*

*This cake **tastes** wonderful. (NOT: This cake ~~is-tasting~~ wonderful.)*