

2.1 Present Continuous Tense

To form the present continuous tense, use a form of *be* (*is, am, are*) + verb *-ing*.⁵
Forms

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
<p>Subj. Be Verb + -ing Complement</p> <p>I am putting my pictures on a Web site. Jack is visiting a retirement village. She is teaching Web design. They are doing yoga.</p>	<p>I → am He/She/It → is Singular Subject → is We/You/They → are Plural Subject → are</p> <p>} + verb <i>-ing</i></p>
<p>They're playing cards. Jack's taking a tour of the retirement village. He's asking questions. The manager's answering his questions.</p>	<p>We can make a contraction with the subject pronoun and a form of <i>be</i>. Most nouns can also contract with <i>is</i>.⁶</p>
<p>Jack isn't doing yoga. Most people aren't watching TV. I'm not playing tennis.</p>	<p>To form the negative, put <i>not</i> after the verb <i>am/is/are</i>. Negative contractions: is not = isn't are not = aren't There is no contraction for <i>am not</i>.</p>
<p>Jerry is designing a Web site <i>and</i> putting his family pictures on it. They are playing cards <i>and</i> laughing. She's reading <i>or</i> watching TV.</p>	<p>Do not repeat the <i>be</i> verb after these connectors: <i>and</i> <i>or</i></p>

Use

- EXAMPLES**
- a. Some people **are dancing** now.
 - b. My wife **is reading** now.
 - c. Mary Dodge **is standing** over there.
 - d. She **is wearing** jeans.
 - e. A man **is sitting** in front of a computer.

EXPLANATION

In sentences (a) and (b), we use the present continuous tense to describe an action in progress at this moment.

In sentences (c), (d), and (e), we use the present continuous tense to describe a state or condition, using the following verbs: *sit, stand, wear, and sleep*. We can observe these things now.