

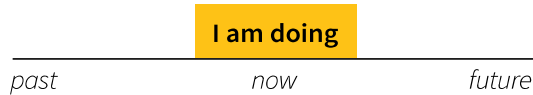
# Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

**A**

Compare:

*present continuous (I am doing)*

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not complete.



- The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- 'I'm busy.' 'What **are you doing**?'
- I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

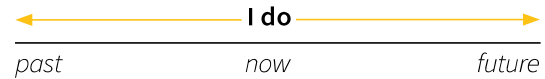
We use the continuous for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: You're **working** hard today.  
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

*present simple (I do)*

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.



- Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, **do you speak** English?
- It **doesn't rain** very much in summer.
- What **do** you usually **do** at weekends?
- I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

**B**

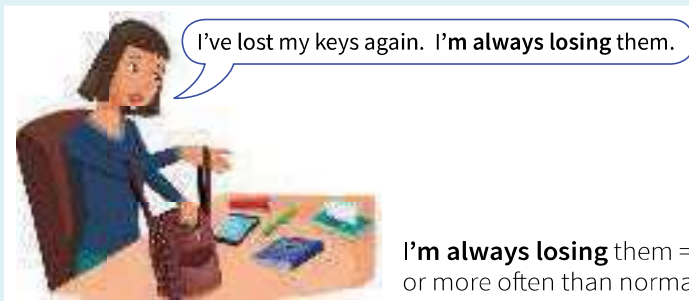
**I always do and I'm always doing**

**I always do** something = I do it every time:

- I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

**I'm always doing** something = I do it too often or more often than normal.

For example:



**I'm always losing** them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

- Paul is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= he complains too much)
- You're **always looking** at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

## Exercises

### 3.1 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. OK  
-----
- 2 How often are you going to the cinema? do you go  
-----
- 3 Ben tries to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet. -----
- 4 Martina is phoning her mother every day. -----
- 5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days. -----
- 6 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? -----
- 7 What do you do in your spare time? -----
- 8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She doesn't eat meat. -----
- 9 I must go now. It gets late. -----
- 10 'Come on! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.' -----
- 11 Paul is never late. He's always starting work on time. -----
- 12 They don't get on well. They're always arguing. -----

### 3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 a I usually get (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.  
b I'm getting (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.
- 2 a '----- (you / listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'  
b '----- (you / listen) to the radio a lot?' 'No, not very often.'
- 3 a The River Nile ----- (flow) into the Mediterranean.  
b The river ----- (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 4 a I'm not very active. ----- (I / not / do) any sport.  
b What ----- (you / usually / do) at weekends?
- 5 a Rachel is in New York right now. ----- (She / stay) at the Park Hotel.  
b ----- (She / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

### 3.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Why are all these people here? What's happening (What / happen)?
- 2 Julia is good at languages. ----- (She / speak) four languages very well.
- 3 Are you ready yet? ----- (Everybody / wait) for you.
- 4 I've never heard this word. How ----- (you / pronounce) it?
- 5 Kate ----- (not / work) this week. She's on holiday.
- 6 I think my English ----- (improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
- 7 Nicola ----- (live) in Manchester. She has never lived anywhere else.
- 8 Can we stop walking soon? ----- (I / start) to get tired.
- 9 Sam and Tina are in Madrid right now. ----- (They / visit) a friend of theirs.
- 10 'What ----- (your father / do)?' 'He's an architect.'
- 11 It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days ----- (it / not / take) so long.
- 12 I ----- (I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My father ----- (teach) me.

### 3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use **always -ing**.

- 1 A: I've lost my keys again.  
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys -----
- 2 A: The car has broken down again.  
B: That car is useless. It -----
- 3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.  
B: Oh no, not again! I -----
- 4 A: Oh, I've left my phone at home again.  
B: Typical! -----