

(2)The Present Continuous Tense

1- Form

is

S + am + (V – ing) ...

are

Examples:

- He **is taking** me to the theater.

- I **am meeting** Nada tonight.

- They **are reading** English.

2 - This tense is used to describe an action that is going on at the moment of speaking, or for an action happening now.

- I'm standing near the door.

- Selma is sitting at the back.

3- In the negative we use not after (is, am or are). In the interrogative the verbs (is, am or are) are used before the subject. Examples:

- She is not cooking.

- Are you writing your lesson?

4- The following adverbs are used with this tense:

now, at this moment, at the present time

5- The following verbs cannot be used in this tense:

a- Verbs of sensation:

see, hear, taste, smell

Ex. I **see** you or I **can see** you

b- Verbs that indicate mental states:

know, understand, believe, suppose, think, remember, forget, notice,

agree, hope, wish, mean, love ,want, ...

Examples:

- I **understand** you.

- I **feel** you are wrong.

-This coffee **tastes** bitter.

C-Verbs that indicate states or qualities such as size, ownership, structure:

consist of, include, contain, belong to, possess, own, owe, have, need

- She needs some money.

Listed below are examples, uses and structure of the Present Continuous followed by a quiz.

1. Things that are happening now, at the moment.

What are you doing?

She's reading in the garden.

They're not standing in the rain.

2. Actions happening in a period around the present moment in time.

I'm reading "The Surgeon's Mate" by Patrick O'Brian.

Whose account are you working on?

She's studying hard for her final exam.

3. Future plans and arrangements.

We're having leftovers this evening.

What are you doing tomorrow afternoon?

She isn't coming on Friday.

4. Common present continuous time expressions include:

at the moment, now, today, this week, this month, tomorrow, next week (for future arrangements), currently

Exercise (1)

1. She (wear) nice clothes now. (put the verb in the correct tense)
2. They (work) at this moment. (correct the verb)
3. She is reading now. (change into the negative)
4. It (rain) heavily in winter. (correct the verb)
5. They are playing football now. (change into the interrogative)
6. I still (remember) her name. (correct the verb)
7. What is Muna doing now? (respond: watch TV)

Exercise (2) Complete these sentences with the correct tense of the verb in parentheses:

1 - The wind (blow) now.

2 - Now we (know) that there (be) no life on the moon.

3 - Look; Dr. Yousif (pour) acid into the tube.

4 - You (not use) an ammeter at the moment.

5 - Concrete (harden) a short time after we (mix) it.

6 - The engine (operate) now.

7 - Current (flow) through the circuit now.

8 - Chemical reactions (not break) the atoms of substances.