**2. The Present Continuous Tense**

**2.1. Form**

The present continuous tense is formed with ‘am / is / are’ followed the present participle of the verb ‘v+ing’.

**to be (am/are/is) + Infinitive +ing**

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| Affirmative Negative Interrogative Negative interrogative |
| I am working I am not working am I working? aren't I working? |
| You are working you are not working are you working? aren't you working? |
| he/she/it is. not working is she/he/it working? isn’t he/she/it working? |
| We are working we are not working are we working? aren’t we working? |
| They are working they are not working are they working? aren’t they working? |

**Wh Questions:** Why's he working? Where're you working?

**The spelling of the present participle**

**A** .When a verb ends in a single **e**, this **e** is dropped before **“ing”**:

*argue, arguing hate, hating love, loving*

Except after **age, dye** and **singe**:

*Ageing dyeing singeing*

And verbs ending in **ee**:

*Agree, agreeing see, seeing*

**B.** When a verb of one syllable has one vowel and ends in a single consonant, this consonant is doubled before **ing**:

*hit, hitting run, running stop, stopping*

Verbs of two or more syllables whose last syllable contains only one vowel and ends in a single consonant double this consonant if the stress falls on the last syllable:

*admit, admitting begin, beginning prefer, preferring*

But *budget, budgeting entre, entering*

(stress not on the last syllable).

A final **l** after a single vowel is, however, always doubled:

*signal, signaling travel, travelling*

except in American English.

**C. “ing”** can be added to a verb ending in “**y”** without affecting the spelling of the verb: *carry, carrying enjoy, enjoying hurry, hurrying*

**2.2. USE**

We use the present continuous to talk about:

**1.** Activities at the moment of speaking. These things usually last for quite a short time and they are not finished when we are talking about them:

* *I am just* ***leaving*** *work. I will be home in an hour.*

**2.** Future meaning: plans or arrangements; i.e. definite future arrangements (with a future time word). In this case we have already made a plan and we are pretty sure that the event will happen in the future.

* *Mary* ***is going*** *to a new school next term.*
* *I'm meeting my father tomorrow*

**3.** For an action that is not necessarily happening at the moment but occurring about this time:

* *I’m quite busy these days. I’****m working*** *with my uncle on a new project*

**4.** with always/continually/constantly to express a frequently occurring action which annoys or surprises the speaker:

* *She* ***is*** *always* ***leaving*** *the front door open.*
* *That student* ***is*** *always* ***talking*** *during lecture.*

OR to emphasize that something is done so often that it is the characteristic of a person or thing (habits that are not regular, but that happen very often):

* *A: I think I’ll stay here after all. –B: You’re constantly changing your mind.*

**5.** for a temporary situation,even if the action isn't happening at this moment:

* *He* ***is paying*** *extra premiums on his house insurance this month.*
* *Banks* ***are lending*** *more money (these days) to encourage businesses. (implies that this is not, or may not be, permanent).*