

Present Progressive

1. Formation

We form the present progressive with **am/is/are + -ing form**.

I am writing.
You are not writing.
Is she writing?

2. Use

The present progressive is used when we want to say that someone is doing something **now / at the moment** or that something is happening as we speak. The action or event is **in progress** and **not yet complete**. Common phrases of time are *at the moment, now, just* and *still*.

Liz is washing her hair (at the moment).

The present progressive is used for actions which are not yet complete but can be interrupted for a time. Strictly speaking, such interrupted actions are not in progress at the moment of speaking.

I'm very busy at the moment. I'm helping my parents. We're decorating our living-room.

We can use the adverb *always* with the present progressive to say that something happens again and again, although not at regular intervals. Here *always* means *very often* or *too often*. The structure expresses the speaker's annoyance or surprise.

I'm always forgetting my purse.

We use the present progressive to express the idea that a repeated action is **temporary**, i.e. it is happening for a limited period of time.

Sally is working at a restaurant during her holidays.

We use the present progressive to say that something is **definitely planned** or **arranged for the future**. It must be clear from the context or from the use of a phrase of future time (*this afternoon, on Sunday, next week*) that we are talking about the future.

We're having a barbecue on Sunday.