

Patterns on the use of the Present Continuous Tense (Present Progressive)

I. Verbs of Action

1. Tom is talking on the phone right now.

It is raining outside. (an action in progress at the moment of speaking)

II. Stative Verbs

Verbs of:

1. being, seeming
2. having
3. feeling, thinking
4. liking
5. wanting

Stative verbs are not commonly used in Present Progressive. States are usually involuntary, not deliberate. Actions are deliberate.

to belong

(being smb's possession)

to contain

One of the five meanings, listed

to cost

above is present in these verbs

to deserve

...

to differ

being unlike

to exist

being

to hold

to matter

to be of some importance

to own

to have

to possess

to have

to resemble

to be like smb.

to hear

to see

to taste

to have the taste of ...

to smell

to believe

to consider

to expect

to like

to understand

to want

to mind

to be against

These verbs can be used in Pr.Cont. only when they stop being stative verbs and get a different meaning. (**deliberate actions**)

- *I consider the matter to be of no importance.*

I'm considering the matter right now. (giving it consideration)

- *Do you mind telling us about it?*

Is anyone minding the baby? (looking after)

- *I don't see anything interesting here. (involuntary)*
I'm looking attentively at the photo. (deliberate)
- *I expect you must be tired.*
I'm expecting a visitor.

III. Arranged actions for immediate future

(The time of the action should be indicated by an adverbial of future time to avoid confusion).

- *We are dining out today. (a future action)*
I'm seeing John at his office at 5. (to see = to meet)

IV. Special uses of the Present Continuous Tense.

1) Temporary behaviour, not typical of a person in general.

The verb to be (in the Present Continuous) + adjective

- *Don't mind Carrol. She is being funny.*
You are being ridiculous. Don't say such things. (a temporary state)

Only with adjectives that can express constant features.

naughty	rude	When used in the Present Cont. Tense these adjectives imply passing behaviour.
awful	ungrateful	
childish	wasteful	
critical	vain	
idiotic	unpleasant	
ironic	smart	
nasty	absurd	

DO NOT USE words of the type: tired, upset, etc.

2) Emotional response to some action happening more often than necessary (with an element of exaggeration)

- *They are constantly complaining!*
- *He is always putting on airs.*
- *You are always wanting things we can't afford.*