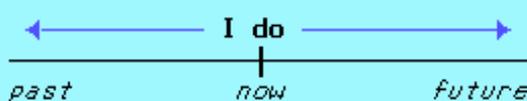


### Unit 3 Present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do)?

Before you study this unit, study **Units 1 and 2**.

**a** Study this explanation and compare the examples:

<i>Present continuous (I am doing)</i>	<i>Present simple (I do)</i>
Use the present continuous to talk about something which is happening at or around the time of speaking:	Use the present simple to talk about things in general or things which happen repeatedly:
	
Listen to those people. What language <b>are they speaking</b> ? 'Where's Tom?' 'He's <b>playing</b> tennis.' (you find a stranger in your room) What <b>are you doing</b> here? Silvia is in Britain for three months. She's <b>learning</b> English.	Excuse me, <b>do you speak</b> English? Tom <b>plays</b> tennis every Saturday. What <b>do you usually do</b> at weekends? What <b>do you do</b> ? (= What's your job?) Most people <b>learn</b> to swim when they are children.
Use the present continuous for a <i>temporary</i> situation: I' <b>n living</b> with some friends until I can find a flat. That machine <b>isn't working</b> . It broke down this morning.	Use the present simple for a <i>permanent</i> situation: My parents <b>live</b> in London. They have been there for 20 years. That machine <b>doesn't work</b> . It hasn't worked for years.

**b** Some verbs are used only in simple tenses. For example, you cannot say 'I am knowing'. You can only say I **know**. Here is a list of verbs which are

**b** Some verbs are used only in simple tenses. For example, you cannot say 'I am knowing'. You can only say I **know**. Here is a list of verbs which are not normally used in continuous tenses (but there are exceptions):

want    like    belong    know    suppose    remember  
need    love    see    realise    mean    forget  
prefer    hate    hear    believe    understand    seem  
have (when the meaning is 'possess' - see also **Unit 24**)  
think (when the meaning is 'believe')

- Do you **like** London? (*not* 'are you liking')
  - He **doesn't understand**. (*not* 'he isn't understanding')
  - These shoes **belong** to me. (*not* 'are belonging')
  - What **do you think** Tom will do? (= What do you believe he will do?)
- But:* What **are you thinking** about? (= What is going on in your mind?)

