
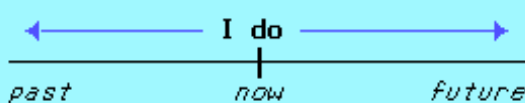


### Unit 3 Present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do)?

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

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

<p><u>Present continuous (I am doing)</u> Use the present continuous to talk about something which is happening at or around the time of speaking:</p>  <p>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.</p> <p>Use the present continuous for a <i>temporary</i> situation: I'm <b>living</b> with some friends until I can find a flat. That machine <b>isn't working</b>. It broke down this morning.</p>	<p><u>Present simple (I do)</u> Use the present simple to talk about things in general or things which happen repeatedly:</p>  <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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**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?)

