

Present Progressive Tense

What is the present progressive tense?

We use the present progressive tense to talk about something happening now, or something that happens regularly around now. For example:

I *am studying* English now.

I *am taking* a course on American history these days.

She *is trying* to find a new job at the moment.

The present progressive tense is also called the present continuous tense.

What is the sentence structure?

The present progressive tense uses the following structure:

subject | be verb in the present tense | main verb + ing | object /complement

He | is | watching | a movie now.

Jon | is | giving | a presentation in the meeting now.

They | are | visiting | from Los Angeles for the holidays.

How is the present progressive used?

The present progressive most often describes three situations:

1. An action happening right now.
2. An action that is happening regularly but isn't finished.
3. An action that is happening in a period of time around now.

Here's an example of each:

The mechanic *is fixing* my car (now).

In this sentence, the mechanic is in the process of repairing the car.

My friend *is planning* to move. He *is looking* for a new apartment these days.

In these sentences, my friend hasn't moved yet. He is in the middle of an action which could take several more weeks before it finishes.

I'm quite tired these days. I *am drinking* a lot of coffee so I can finish my term papers on time. This is a repeated action that is happening around now.

Is there additional information on passive causative sentences?

Some verbs don't express an action, and these can't be used in the present progressive tense.

Some examples include:

believe, hate, know, like, love, prefer, realize, remember, seem, understand, and want.

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