

Learn Grammar

A Read and learn.

Learn Grammar Review of Continuous Tenses

Present Continuous

Affirmative: *am / is / are + -ing* form of verb

Negative: *am not / is not / are not + -ing* form of verb

Questions: *Am / Is / Are + subject + -ing* form of verb ... ?

Work is progressing very well at the moment.

In speaking, you often use the short form: *am = 'm is = 's.*

Short Answers in the Present Continuous

Yes, + subject + *am / is / are.* No, + subject + *'m not / isn't / aren't.*

Past Continuous

Affirmative: *was / were + -ing* form of verb

Negative: *was not / were not + -ing* form of verb

Questions: *Was / Were + subject + -ing* form of verb ... ?

For the whole of last year, they were building the section to Manipur.

In speaking, you often use the short form for negatives: *was not = wasn't were not = weren't.*

Short Answers in the Past Continuous

Yes, + subject + *was / were.* No, + subject + *wasn't / weren't.*

Present Perfect Continuous

Affirmative: *have / has + been + -ing* form of verb

Negative: *haven't / hasn't + been + -ing* form of verb

Questions: *Have / Has + subject + been + -ing* form of verb ... ?

The engineers have been working on the first part of a new highway.

In speaking, you often use the short form: *have = 've has = 's.*

Use the present perfect continuous to talk about an action that started in the past and is continuing now. It is often used with *for* or *since*.

We have been working on the highway for two years.

Past	Present	Future
Action started in past.	Action is continuing now.	

You often use *for* to talk about a period of time – five minutes, three weeks, two years, a long time – and *since* to talk about a moment in the past – ten o'clock, May 1, Sunday.



Learn Grammar Review of Continuous Tenses

Short Answers in the Present Perfect Continuous

Yes, + subject + *has / have*.

No, + subject + *hasn't / haven't*.

Have you been working on the road for a long time? Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.

Future Continuous

Affirmative: *will + be + -ing* form of verb

Negative: *will not + be + -ing* form of verb

Questions: *Will + subject + be + -ing* form of verb ... ?

In our presentation today, we will be talking about a new road.

They won't be starting work on that for several years.

When you use the present perfect continuous tense in speaking, you often use the short form: *will = 'll* *will not = won't*.

Short Answers in the Future

Yes, + subject + *will*.

No, + subject + *won't*.



B Match the sentences to the tenses. There are two extra sentences.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 present continuous | ● | ● a We've been working hard. |
| 2 past continuous | ● | ● b We'll be finishing the job in June. |
| 3 present perfect continuous | ● | ● c We are completing the plans this week. |
| 4 future continuous | ● | ● d We like working on this project. |
| | | ● e They were building the road all last year. |
| | | ● f He enjoys working on this team. |

C Rewrite the sentences with the short forms of the verbs.

- 1 We will be starting the project next week. _____
- 2 They have been working here since 2013. _____
- 3 He is finishing the plans today. _____

D Listen and read. Underline all of the continuous tenses. 05

Progress report

We have been building the bridge since January of this year. We had big problems at the beginning of the project, and from January to April, we were only working on the first ten meters of Section 1. Most of the problems are now worked out, and work is now progressing well. At the moment, we are finishing Section 2. Next month, in June, we will be starting work on the final section. We are hoping to complete the project by the end of the year.

