

Unit 22: PRESENT CONTINUOUS

This formation usually means ‘now — for a limited period of time’. We use the present tense of the auxiliary verb **be** (Unit 17) before the **-ing** form of the lexical verb (Unit 3).

1 Formation (**be + -ing form**)

a STATEMENTS

EXAMPLES: I **am driving** this quad to the first aid trailer.
The bosses **are meeting** me there.
They **aren't coming** out to the field.
They **are timing** my trip.

b QUESTIONS

EXAMPLES: **Are** you **working** on line today?
How **are** you **making** out?
Who **is** **taking** over your shift?
They **aren't going** into the city?
Why **aren't** they **driving** there?

NOTICE: For spelling problems with the **-ing** form of the verb, look at Appendix 6.

2 Use

a PRESENT ACTIVITY

EXAMPLES: Be quiet! The site manager **is speaking**.
They **are discussing** some major changes.
What **are** you **planning** to do?

b TEMPORARY STATE

EXAMPLES: She **is staying** at the work camp.
He **isn't claiming** his expense.

c CHANGING STATE

EXAMPLES: Stop! The truck **is sliding**!
The roads on this pipeline **are getting** muddier.

d FUTURE PLANS

EXAMPLES: We **are leaving** for the site in the morning.

NOTICE: Present continuous or present simple or present perfect? (Unit 39)
Present continuous or **going to** or **will**? (Unit 41)