



**Module:** English  
**Branch:** Marketing  
**Level:** Third year Bachelor

## Lecture 04: The present continuous

### 1- Introduction

The present continuous means that we are in the middle of an action

### 2- Form

The present continuous is the present tense of be + an ing-form.

*I am looking OR I'm looking*

*you/we/they are looking OR you/we/they're looking*

*he/she/it is looking OR he/she/it's looking*

NEGATIVE

*I'm not looking*

*you/we/they aren't looking*

*he/she/it isn't looking*

QUESTION

*am I looking?*

*are you/we/they looking?*

*is he/she/it looking?*

*I'm getting the lunch ready. The train is coming, look.*

*We're looking for a post office. Rachel isn't wearing her new dress.*

*What are you doing? Who is Vicky dancing with?*

For rules about the spelling of the ing-form see page 370.

### 3- Use

We use the present continuous to say that we are in the middle of an action.

*I'm waiting for the train. (I'm at the station now.)*

*I'm getting the lunch ready. (I'm in the kitchen now.) I'm waiting* means that I am in the middle of a period of waiting. The wait is not yet over.

We can also use the present continuous when we are in the middle of something but not actually doing it at the moment of speaking.

*I must get back to the office. We're working on a new project.*

*I'm quite busy these days. **I'm doing** a course at college.*

We can use the present continuous when things are changing over a long period. *The number of cars on the road **is increasing**. The earth is slowly **getting** warmer.*