



# Present Continuous Tense

The form is : **S + Am.Is.Are + V<sub>p</sub><sup>5</sup>**

The Present Continuous Tense is part of the group of continuous tenses (see simple vs continuous). It has the meaning of an action that began before and continues after, with the action happening at that time, that time, in this case is **NOW**.

The Present Continuous Tense has three meanings:

- 1) An action that is happening now.
- 2) One or more actions that are happening in this period but not necessarily at the moment of speaking.
- 3) With a future time clause it indicates a Strong Future (see Strong Future), an intention for the future or an indication that something is about to happen.

Examples:

- i) I am writing this sentence (it is happening now).
- ii) I am reading a book by Joyce and studying Latin and preparing for my summer holidays (three actions that are happening in this period but not necessarily [it would be difficult for all three to happen at the same time] at the same moment).
- iii) Next week I am going to Manchester (a planned future action that is not normal). (see Strong Future, time Periods, Stative verbs)