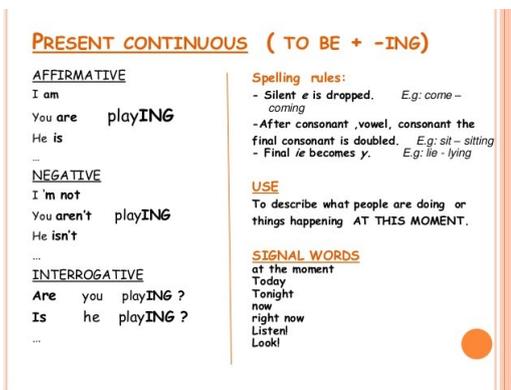


Present continuous/present perfect - Can you identify the difference?

Created: Wednesday, 25 November 2015 07:17 | Published: Wednesday, 16 December 2015 16:37 | Written by [Shailja Varma](#) | [Print](#)

Tenses are an important aspect of English grammar as they tell us about time. Different tenses depict different time periods for example Past tense tells us about the time that has passed, Present about the current time and Future about the time that is still to come.. When referring to the past and present, there are two simple tenses and six complex tenses. When referring to the future, there are four modal tenses, which sums up to a total of 12 tenses in the active voice.

Today, let's focus on Present Continuous and Present Perfect tense as they tend to create a lot of confusion.



PRESENT CONTINUOUS (TO BE + -ING)

AFFIRMATIVE
I am
You are play**ING**
He is
...

NEGATIVE
I'm not
You aren't play**ING**
He isn't
...

INTERROGATIVE
Are you play**ING** ?
Is he play**ING** ?
...

Spelling rules:
- Silent *e* is dropped. E.g: come - coming
- After consonant ,vowel, consonant the final consonant is doubled. E.g: sit - sitting
- Final *ie* becomes *y*. E.g: lie - lying

USE
To describe what people are doing or things happening **AT THIS MOMENT**.

SIGNAL WORDS
at the moment
Today
Tonight
now
right now
Listen!
Look!

Present Continuous

The Present Continuous tense is formed by the combination of the Present tense of the verb 'be' and the present participle (-ing form) of a verb. We use Present Continuous tense under following circumstances:

1. For something that is happening at the moment of speaking

Examples:

- . I am leaving from office now.
- . Neha is eating Maggi as she is hungry.

2. To say something which is happening before and after a given time

Examples:

- . We are usually having dinner at 8 pm.
- . When I reach home mummy is generally cooking.

3. To show that something is changing, growing or developing

Examples:

- . Rina, your English is improving.
- . The humidity is increasing day by day.

4. We use the Present Continuous tense to talk about the future for something which has been arranged or planned:

Examples:

- . Hey Riaan what are you doing next week?
- . Meena is going to new college next year.

5. To talk about the past when we are telling a story or summarizing the story from a book and a play etc.



Present Perfect

The Present Perfect is formed from the Present tense of the verb 'have'/'has' and the past participle of a verb. We use Present Perfect tense under following circumstances:

1. To say something that started in the past and continues in the present:

Examples:

- . Meena and Karan have been married for nearly twenty years.
- . He has lived in London all his life.

2. To say something which we have done several times in the past and continue to do:

Examples:

- .I have seen this movie ten times.
- .We have stayed in this hotel many times.

3. When the time period referred to has not finished:

Examples:

- . It has rained a lot this year.
- . I have worked hard this week

4. We use present perfect of 'be' when someone has gone to a place and returned and in same manner when someone has not returned we use have/has gone:

Examples:

- . Where have you been?

. He's gone to Delhi for a month.

The above rules will guide you with the proper usage of Present Continuous/Present Perfect. Tenses are the base for fluent [English speaking](#). Make yours stronger with the help of online English training course to help better your understanding of the English language.

About Eagetutor:

eAgeTutor.com is the premier online tutoring provider. eAge's world-class faculty and ace communication experts from around the globe help you to improve English in an all-round manner. Assignments and tasks based on a well-researched content developed by subject matter and industry experts can certainly fetch the most desired results for [improving spoken English](#) skills. Overcoming limitations is just a click of mouse away in this age of effective and advance communication technology. For further information on [online English speaking course](#) or to experience the wonders of virtual classroom fix a demonstration session with our tutor. Please visit www.eagetutor.com.

- By Shailja Varma

Related topics:

1. [How to handle a noisy neighbor?](#)
2. [How To Invite Somebody For a Birthday Party?](#)
3. [How to upsell and cross sell?](#)
4. [Tips for Making Small Talk and Breaking the Ice](#)
5. [What are some phrases for conversation?](#)

Category:[Spoken English](#) / [English Grammar](#)

[Joomla SEF URLs by Artio](#)