39 Present continuous (1)

1 Form

We form the present continuous with *am*, *is* or *are* + the *-ing* form of the main verb e.g. *watching*, *going*, *eating*.

POSITIVE			SHORT FORM
I	*am*	*watching TV.*	*I'm watching TV.*
He/She/It	*is*	*leaving.*	*He's/She's/It's leaving.*
We/You/They	*are*	*practising.*	*You're/We're/They're practising.*

NEGATIVE			SHORT FORM	
I	*am not*	*watching TV.*	*I'm not*	*watching TV.*
He/She/It	*is not*		*He isn't/He's not* *She isn't/She's not* *It isn't/It's not*	
We/You/They	*are not*		*You aren't/You're not*	

Sometimes the spelling of the main verb changes, eg:
take → *taking*
lie → *lying*
swim → *swimming*

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2 Use

We use the present continuous

- to describe something that is happening while we are speaking:
  Hurry up. The taxi's ***waiting*** *outside right now.*
  *Can you help me? I'****m looking for*** *the post office.*
  James can't come to the door – he's ***having*** *a bath.*
- to talk about something that is happening around now, for a limited period of time:
  I'm using my brother's computer today because mine ***isn't working****.*
  *We're on holiday this week. We'****re staying*** *in a hotel near the beach.*

We often use time expressions (e.g. (*right*) *now*, *at the moment*, *today*, *this week*):
This year *we're* ***studying*** *the history of the theatre.*