

UPPER BEGINNERS
STUDENT GRAMMAR
WORKBOOK SERIES

PRESENT CONTINUOUS



Betty-Ann Buss

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS DEPARTMENT

VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



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Present Continuous

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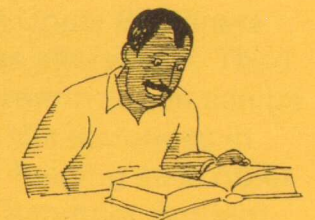
TO THE STUDENT:

To get the most out of this booklet:

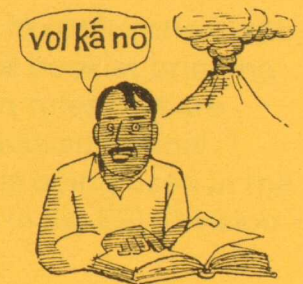
- Check your answers in the answer key carefully and correct any mistakes (including spelling).



- Use your dictionary to look up the meanings of words you don't know.



- Use your dictionary or ask someone to help you with pronunciation.



- After you have corrected the exercises, read them out loud.

- Read the stories out loud.

- Get someone to practice the dialogues with you.



TO THE TEACHER:

The **Upper Beginners Student Grammar Workbook Series** consists of five verb units: **Present Continuous Tense**, **Simple Present Tense** and **Simple Past Tense**, as well as **'Going To'** and **'Will'**. The booklets were developed to give students an opportunity to systematically and independently learn these verb forms which are found in the Upper Beginners curriculum in the English Language Skills Department, ESL Division, at VCC/KEC.

Each unit includes a brief explanation of the grammar point, charts to show how to form the tense, stories and dialogues to illustrate usage and to give students a chance to practice the material orally, and exercises with answer keys for reinforcement. In the stories and dialogues, practical situations and places familiar to people living in and around Vancouver have been used.

When the booklets are used for homework in Upper Beginners classes, it is useful to go over the assigned pages orally in class afterwards. Then any errors can be caught and problems with vocabulary and pronunciation can be addressed. For further reinforcement, students could work on the dialogues in pairs, and take turns reading the stories (and exercises) aloud, helping each other with any difficulties. (At the Pre-Intermediate level, the Upper Beginner Student Grammar Workbook Series is available for students to use in independent review of Upper Beginner material.)

The **Verb List** booklet, which was developed in conjunction with the UB Student Grammar Workbook Series, is a handy reference booklet bringing together in one place the many spelling rules and pronunciation rules that are introduced and worked on in the verb units. The Verb List also has additional information regarding verbs, verb forms and pronunciation. It is being used at the Upper Beginners, Pre-Intermediate and Lower Intermediate levels in the ESL Division at VCC/KEC.

The **Verb List** can also be used in an audio lab to improve listening and pronunciation. Students could bring a cassette tape to record both their own and the teacher's voice and then use the tape for further practice on their own. Students would listen and repeat after the teacher. For example, ESL students often find it difficult to hear and produce the **s** ending for 'she, he, it' in the simple present tense. Students would watch the teacher's mouth while the teacher says the word slowly and carefully, exaggerating the final consonants (stop-stops) and then students repeat. The teacher would repeat the words again at normal speed (and the students would repeat). On the tape the teacher could also offer pronunciation reminders such as telling students to remember to close their lips for the [p] before they add the [s].

CONTENTS

	Pages
1. Present Continuous Tense - right now, at this moment.....	1-7
2. Present Continuous Tense - over a longer period of time	8-11
3. Dialogues with Present Continuous Tense	12-13
4. Present Continuous Tense - at a time in the future	14-16
5. Spelling Rules for adding ING	17-18
6. Spelling Quiz	19
7. Answer Keys to exercises and spelling quiz	20-26

Affirmative

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

We use the **Present Continuous Tense** to talk about something that is happening **now**.

To make the **Present Continuous Tense** we use the verb "**to be**" (**am, are, is**) + the **present participle** (**root + ing**).

Subject	BE	root + ing	
I	am	watch ing	the children play.
You	are	walk ing	very fast.
We	are	hav ing	a good time.
They	are	eat ing	dinner.
She	is	list ening	to the radio.
He	is	read ing	the newspaper.
The cat	is	sle eping	on the chair.
Everyone	is	work ing	hard.

We often use **contractions** with **pronouns**.

I **am** → I'**m**

You **are** → You'**re**

We **are** → We'**re**

They **are** → They'**re**

She **is** → She'**s**

He **is** → He'**s**

It **is** → It'**s**

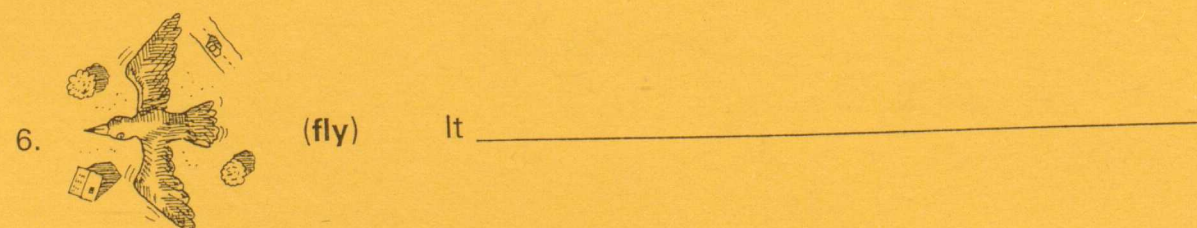
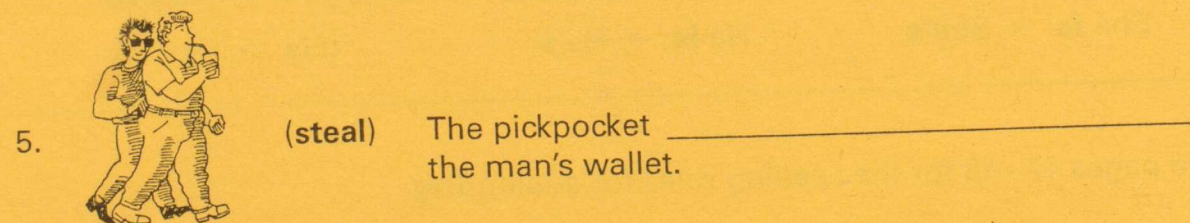
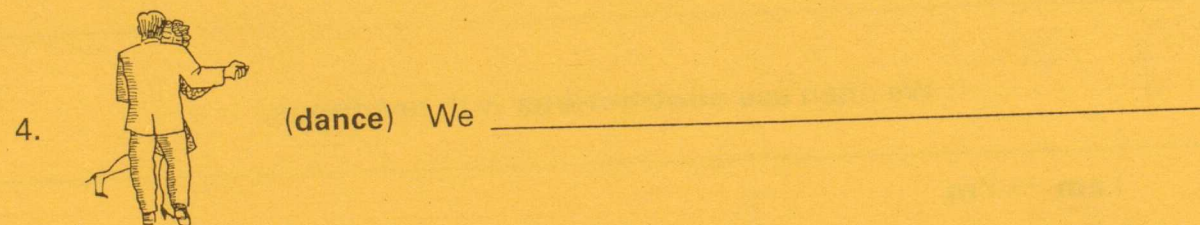
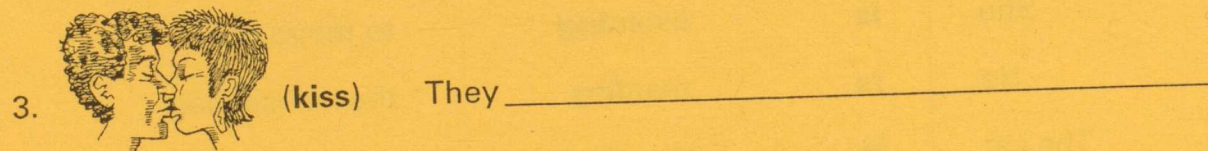
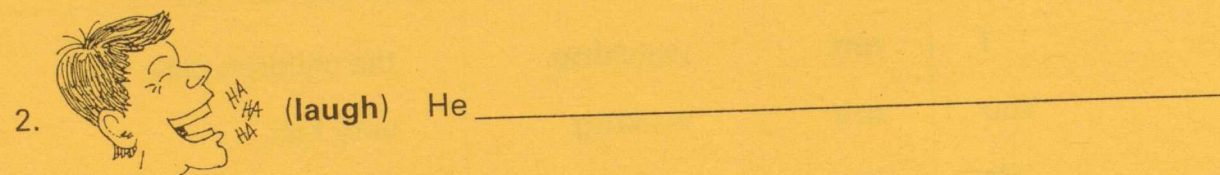
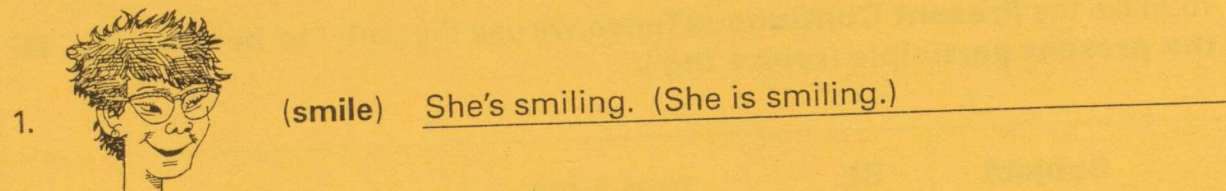
See pages 17 - 18 for the spelling rules for adding **ing**.

Affirmative

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Make sentences about the pictures.

Remember to put in the verb "to be" (am, are, is).

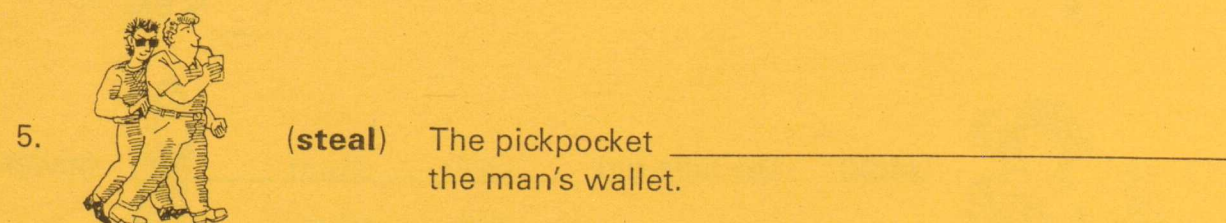
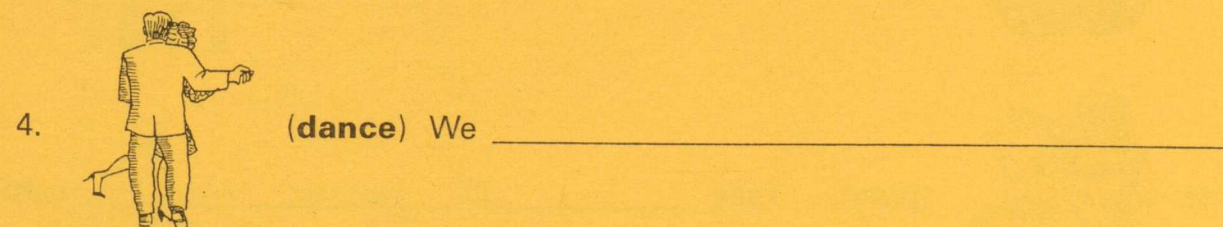
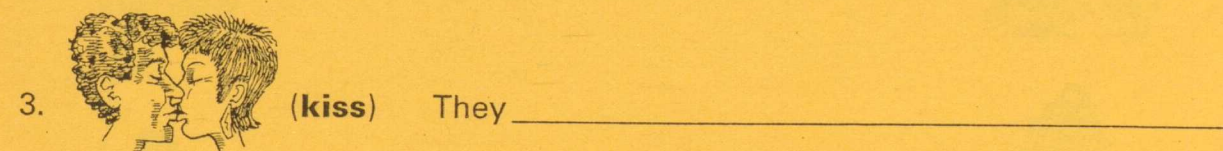
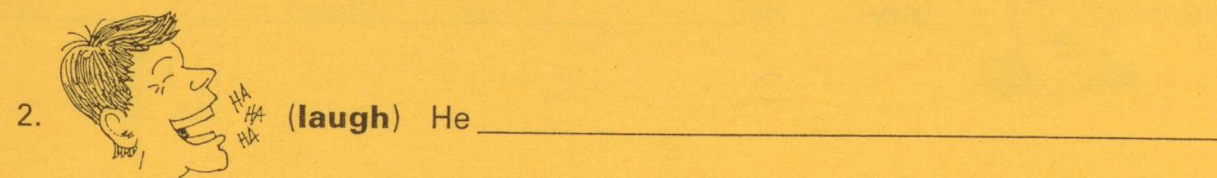
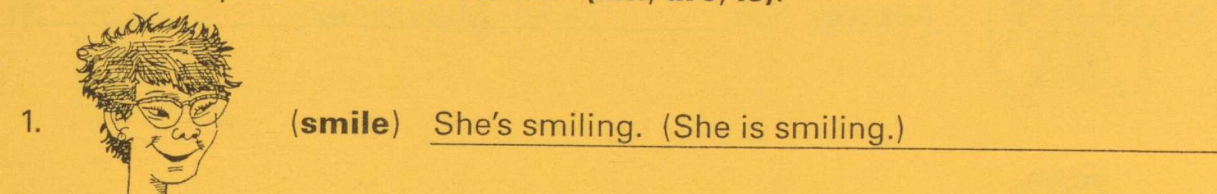


Affirmative

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Make sentences about the pictures.

Remember to put in the verb "to be" (am, are, is).

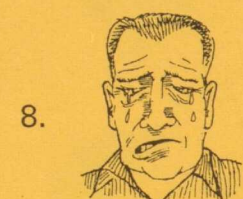


Affirmative

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE



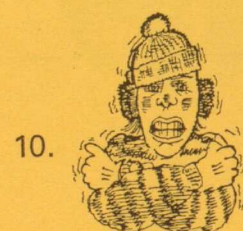
7. (worry) You _____



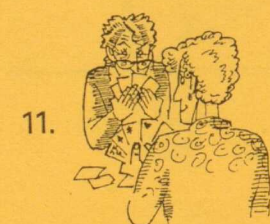
8. (cry) He _____



9. (rain) It _____



10. (shiver) I _____



11. (play) They _____ cards.
We _____ cards.



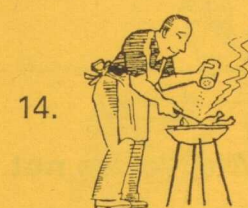
12. (pick) The little girl _____ flowers.



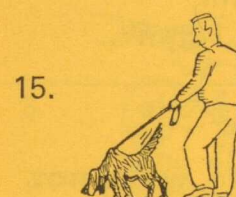
13. (sleep) The baby _____

Affirmative

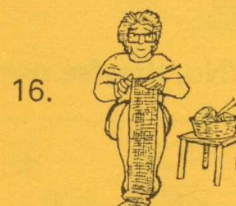
PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE



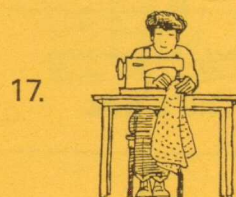
14. (barbecue) My father _____ chicken.



15. (walk) He _____ the dog.



16. (knit) My mother _____ a scarf.



17. (sew) My sister _____ a dress.



18. (water) He _____ the garden.



19. (cut) She _____ the grass.
(mow) She _____ the lawn.



20. (rake) He _____ the grass.

Yes/No
Questions

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

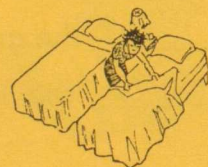
The verb
"to be"

subject	root + ing	short answers
Am I doing this right?		Yes, you are . No, you aren't ./No, you're not .
Are you leaving now?		Yes, I am ./Yes, I'm am . No, I'm not ./No, I am n't.
Are you working hard?		Yes, we are . No, we aren't ./No, we're not .
Are they studying now?		Yes, they are . No, they aren't ./No, they're not .
Is she watching TV?		Yes, she is . No, she isn't ./No, she's not .
Is he listening to music?		Yes, he is . No, he isn't ./No, he's not .
Is the bus coming now?		Yes, it is . No, it isn't ./No, it's not .

Make the questions and give the **short** answer.

Housework (Household Chores)

1.



Is she **making** the beds?

Yes, she is. (She is making the beds.)

Yes/No
Questions

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

2.



Is _____
Yes, _____ (He is washing the dishes.)

3.



_____ (He is emptying the garbage.)

4.



_____ (He is sweeping the floor.)

5.



_____ (He is washing the floor.)

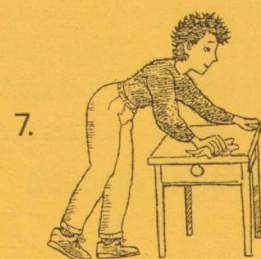
6.



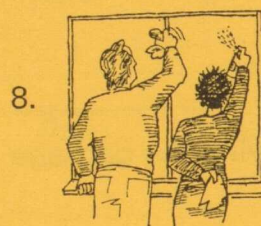
_____ (She is vacuuming the rug.)

Yes/No
Questions

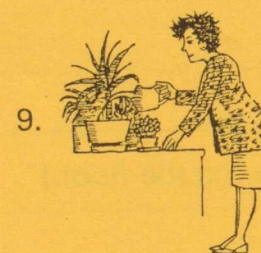
PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE



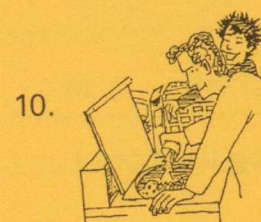
_____ (She is dusting the furniture.)



_____ (They are washing the windows.)



_____ (She is watering the plants.)



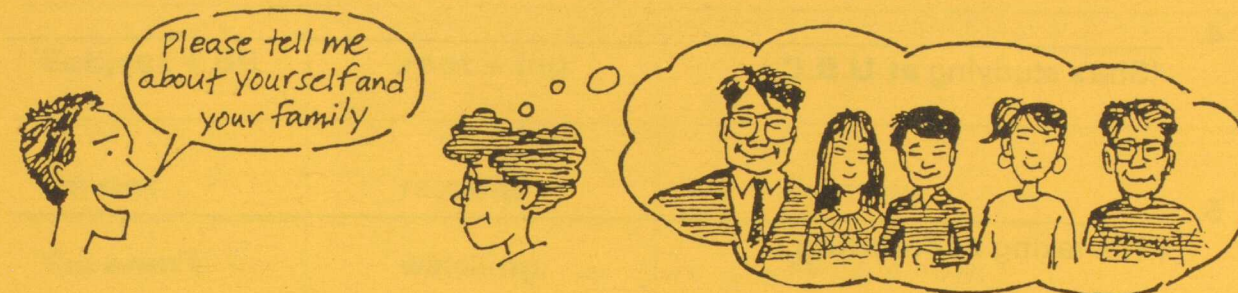
_____ (They are doing the laundry.)

new words: **do** the laundry - **wash** clothes in a machine

*Did you remember to put in the question marks?

Information
Questions

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE



Fill in the blanks:

Well, I'm married and I have four children, two girls and two boys.

My husband and I **are studying** English at K.E.C. Our daughter _____
 1. (study) 2. (study)
 to be a doctor at U.B.C. Our son _____ accounting at S.F.U. and
 3. (take)
 our two youngest children _____ to John Oliver High School.
 4. (go)

K.E.C. = King Edward Campus
 U.B.C. = The University of British Columbia
 S.F.U. = Simon Fraser University

Check the story with the answer key. Then make questions with **what** or **where**.

1. What are you studying?
 (We're studying **English**.)
2. _____
 (We're studying **at K.E.C.**)
3. _____
 (She's studying to be a doctor.)

Information
Questions

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

- 4. _____
(She's studying **at U.B.C.**)
- 5. _____
(He's taking **accounting.**)
- 6. _____
(He's taking accounting **at S.F.U.**)
- 7. _____
(They're going to school **at John Oliver High School.**)

Negatives

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Subject + BE	root + ing	
I'm not	reading	right now.
You aren't	watching	TV right now.
We aren't	listening	to the radio right now.
They aren't	doing	anything right now.
She isn't	reading	right now.
He isn't	listening	to music right now.
The cat isn't	doing	anything right now.

This side is **wrong.**

1. The parents are studying **French.**

2. They are studying **at S.F.U.**

3. Their daughter is studying to to be **a nurse.**

Tell what is really happening in the story on **page 8.**

1. **No.** They aren't studying **French.** They are studying **English.**

2. **No.** They aren't _____

3. **No.** She _____

Negatives

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

4. She is studying **at S.F.U.**

4. No. _____

5. Their son is taking **cooking.**

5. No. _____

6. He is studying **at U.B.C.**

6. No. _____

7. Their two youngest children are going to **Magee** High School.

7. No. _____

Speaking

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Practice these dialogues with a partner.

1.



A. Hi, Joe. It's Bill.

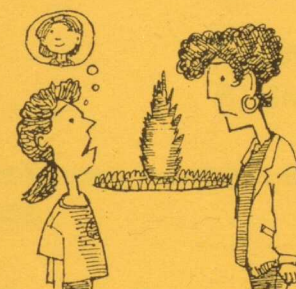
How **are** you **doing**?

B. Fine Say, Joe, can I phone you back later?
I'm just **feeding** the baby.

A. Sure. No problem. 'Bye.

B. 'Bye.

2.



A. What's wrong, dear?

B. I'm **looking** for my little sister. I can't find her.

A. I'll help you.

B. Thank you.

3.



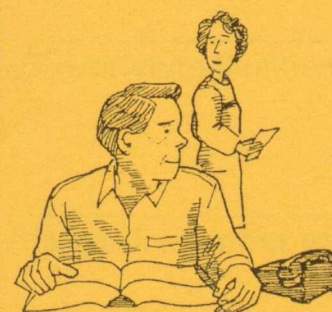
A. **Are** you **waiting** for someone?

B. Yes. I'm **waiting** for my husband. We have an important appointment.

A. I see. Just a minute. I'll get him for you.

B. Thank you.

4.



A. What **are** you **looking up**?

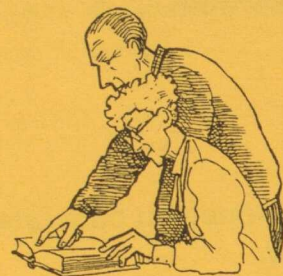
B. Linda and Ken's new phone number.

A. They gave it to me last week.
I'll get it for you.

B. Thanks.

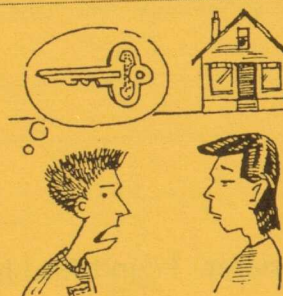
PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

5.



- A. What word **are** you **looking up**?
 B. "Niece". I'm not sure how to spell it.
 A. I'm not, either. Is it "ie" or "ei"?
 B. Ah! Here it is. It's spelled n-i-e-c-e.

6.



- A. What **are** you **looking for**?
 B. I'm **looking for** my house key. I've lost it.
 A. Don't worry. I'll help you.
 B. Thanks a lot.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Talking About the Future

Sometimes we use the **Present Continuous Tense** to talk about something that is going to happen **soon**. We use time words (**tomorrow, this Saturday, next week, later**) with **Present Continuous Tense** when we are talking about the **future**.

- A. When **are** your parents **coming** to Vancouver?
 B. They're **coming next week**.
 A. **Are** they **staying** with you?
 B. Yes. They're **staying** with us.
 A. When **is** your neighbor **leaving** on her trip?
 B. She **is leaving tomorrow morning**.

Make sentences about the **future** with **Present Continuous Tense** and **time words**.

1. I'm **starting** university **next month**.
 (I/start/university/**next month**)

2. _____
 (We/take/the ferry/to Victoria/**tomorrow**)

3. _____
 (They/fly/to Toronto/**next week**)

4. _____
 (She/drive/to Seattle/**tomorrow**)

5. _____
 (He/go/skiing/**next week**)

Future Time

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

6. _____
(We/leave/at 10 o'clock/**tomorrow morning**)
7. _____
(They/come/here/from Tokyo/**tomorrow**)
8. _____
(We/move/to our new house/**next month**)
9. _____
(He/come/to the dance/with us/on **Saturday night**)
10. _____
(She/go/to the party/with her boyfriend/**tomorrow night**)

Future Plans

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

We can also use the **Present Continuous Tense** when we are telling someone about our **future plans**.

This is **Susan's** calendar.

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	Dr Lee		golf	Supper at Mom & Dads		Movie- Ken

Next week - -

1. Susan **is seeing** the doctor on Monday.
2. She **is playing** golf on Wednesday.
3. She **is having** supper at her mom and dad's place on Thursday.
4. She **is going** to a movie with Ken on Saturday evening.

This is her brother **Jack's** calendar.

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
tennis	dentist			Supper at Mom and Dads		Movie- Jane

Next week - -

1. Jack _____
2. He _____
3. _____
4. _____

Spelling Rules ADDING "ING"

1. Many verbs just take **ing**.

answer - answering
borrow - borrowing
ask - asking
finish - finishing
help - helping
need - needing
wait - waiting
show - showing
snow - snowing
fix - fixing
relax - relaxing
stay - staying
enjoy - enjoying
play - playing
be - being
see - seeing
agree - agreeing
lay - laying
pay - paying
say - saying

2. Keep the **y**.

apply - applying
deny - denying
study - studying
try - trying

3. Drop the silent **e**.

smile - smiling
argue - arguing
live - living
use - using

4. Change **ie** to **y**.

die - dying
lie - lying
tie - tying

5. Verbs that end in a consonant-vowel-consonant (cvc):

a) **Double** the final consonant of one syllable verbs ending in cvc.

cvc
plan - planning
shop - shopping
stop - stopping

b) **Double** the final consonant if the last syllable is stressed.

permít - permítting
regrétt - regrétting
prefér - preférring

c) **Do not double** the final consonant if the last syllable is **not** stressed.

lísten - lístening
vísit - vísitng
delíver - delíverng

exceptions: fórmát - fórmátting
ínput - ínputting

Spelling Rules ADDING "ING"

6. **Do not double** the final consonant:

- if it comes after another consonant (learn^{cc}ing)
- after two vowels (wait^{vv}ing)
- if the final consonant is **w**, **x**, or **y** (showing, fixing, playing)

Pronunciation Terms:

vowels (v)	a	e	i	o	u	(and sometimes y)				
consonants (c)	b	c	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	m n
	p	q	r	s	t	v	w	x	y	z
syllables										
	smile					(1 syllable)				
	stu ^{dy}					(2 syllables)				
	*vi ^{si} ting					(3 syllables)				

* Dictionaries show how to break words into syllables for writing (visⁱting). We break words into syllables in a different way for smoother pronunciation (vi^{si}ting). Not all syllables in a word are stressed.

Stress (Unstress)

In English pronunciation, some syllables in words (and some words themselves) are said louder, longer and in a higher voice. One way to show which syllable is stressed is with a stress mark ['].

In **unstressed** syllables, vowel sounds usually have the same sound. The sound is pronounced like the letter e in the word 'the' (the book). We call this neutral sound a schwa and write it [ə] in pronunciation.

For example: the [ðə] Canada [ká^enə^də] tonight [tə^{ná}it]

SPELLING QUIZ

	Root	Add ing .
e.g.	live	living
1.	start	
2.	plan	
3.	relax	
4.	wait	
5.	finish	
6.	hurry	
7.	chop	
8.	tie	
9.	remember	
10.	touch	
11.	fry	
12.	borrow	
13.	employ	
14.	refuse	
15.	pass	

See page 26 for the answer key.

*Present
Continuous
Tense*

ANSWER KEY

Pages 2-4 (Check your spelling carefully.)

1. She's smiling. / She is smiling.
2. He's laughing. / He is laughing.
3. They're kissing. / They are kissing.
4. We're dancing. / We are dancing.
5. The pickpocket is stealing the man's wallet.
6. It's flying. / It is flying.
7. You're worrying. / You are worrying.
8. He's crying. / He is crying.
9. It's raining. / It is raining.
10. I'm shivering. / I am shivering.
11. They're playing cards. / They are playing cards.
We're playing cards. / We are playing cards.
12. The little girl is picking flowers.
13. The baby is sleeping.
14. My father is barbecuing chicken.
15. He's walking the dog. / He is walking the dog.
16. My mother is knitting a scarf.
17. My sister is sewing a dress.
18. He's watering the garden. / He is watering the garden.
19. She's cutting the grass. / She is cutting the grass.
She's mowing the lawn. / She is mowing the lawn.
20. He's raking the grass. / He is raking the grass.

Pages 5-7

1. Is she making the beds?
Yes, she is.
2. Is he washing the dishes?
Yes, he is.
3. Is he emptying the garbage?
Yes, he is.
4. Is he sweeping the floor?
Yes, he is.
5. Is he washing the floor?
Yes, he is.
6. Is she vacuuming the rug?
Yes, she is.
7. Is she dusting the furniture?
Yes, she is.
8. Are they washing the windows?
Yes, they are.
9. Is she watering the plants?
Yes, she is.
10. Are they doing the laundry?
Yes, they are.

Page 8

1. are studying
2. is studying
3. is taking
4. are going

Pages 8-9

1. **What** are you studying?
2. **Where** are you studying?
3. **What** is she studying to be?
4. **Where** is she studying?
5. **What** is he taking?
6. **Where** is he taking accounting?
7. **Where** are they going to school?

Pages 10-11

1. No. They aren't studying **French**.
(They're not studying French.)
They're studying **English**.
(They are studying English.)
2. No. They aren't studying at **S.F.U.**
(They're not studying at S.F.U.)
They're studying at **K.E.C.**
(They are studying at K.E.C.)
3. No. She isn't studying to be a **nurse**.
(She's not studying to be a nurse.)
She's studying to be a **doctor**.
(She is studying to be a doctor.)
4. No. She isn't studying at **S.F.U.**
(She's not studying at S.F.U.)
She's studying at **U.B.C.**
(She is studying at U.B.C.)
5. No. He isn't taking **cooking**.
(He's not taking cooking.)
He's taking **accounting**.
(He is taking accounting.)
6. No. He isn't studying at **U.B.C.**
(He's not studying at U.B.C.)
He's studying at **S.F.U.**
(He is studying at S.F.U.)
7. No. They aren't going to **Magee** High School.
(They're not going to Magee High School.)
They're going to **John Oliver** High School.
(They are going to John Oliver High School.)

Pages 14-15

1. I'm starting university next month.
(I am starting university next month.)
2. We're taking the ferry to Victoria tomorrow.
(We are taking the ferry to Victoria tomorrow.)
3. They're flying to Toronto next week.
(They are flying to Toronto next week.)
4. She's driving to Seattle tomorrow.
(She is driving to Seattle tomorrow.)
5. He's going skiing next week.
(He is going skiing next week.)
6. We're leaving at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.
(We are leaving at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.)
7. They're coming here from Tokyo tomorrow.
(They are coming here from Tokyo tomorrow.)
8. We're moving to our new house next month.
(We are moving to our new house next month.)
9. He's coming to the dance with us on Saturday night.
(He is coming to the dance with us on Saturday night.)
10. She's going to the party with her boyfriend tomorrow night.
(She is going to the party with her boyfriend tomorrow night.)

ANSWER KEY

Page 16

1. Jack is playing tennis on Sunday.
2. He is seeing the dentist on Monday.
or
He is going to the dentist on Monday.
3. He is having supper at his mom and dad's place on Thursday.
or
He is having supper with his mom and dad on Thursday.
4. He is going to a movie with Jane on Saturday evening. (night)

Spelling Quiz

ANSWER KEY

	Root	Add ing.
1.	start	starting
2.	plan	planning
3.	relax	relaxing
4.	wait	waiting
5.	finish	finishing
6.	hurry	hurrying
7.	chop	chopping
8.	tie	tying
9.	remember	remembering
10.	touch	touching
11.	fry	frying
12.	borrow	borrowing
13.	employ	employing
14.	refuse	refusing
15.	pass	passing

