

## AXIS: I

### 1- The present continuous:

**Objectives:** At the end of this lesson, learners will be able to use the present progressive correctly.

To understand the present continuous, Murphy (2012, p.02) provided the following situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work. She **is driving** to work. This means: she is driving **now**, at the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

**Am/is/are + -ing** is the present continuous:

I	<b>am</b> (= I'm)	<b>Singing</b>
he/she/it	<b>is</b> (= he's etc.)	<b>moving</b>
we/you/they	<b>are</b> (= we're etc.).	<b>writing etc.</b>

**1-1** Yule (2006, p.18) asserted that the present continuous is used when describing an action in progress or in the middle of doing something. In this case, the doer is in the middle of an action: He has started doing it and he hasn't finished. See the following examples:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm revising** my lessons. (not I revise).
- Let's go out now. It isn't raining any more. (not It doesn't rain).

**1-2** At times, the occurrence of an action is not simultaneous with the act of speaking. To illustrate this point, consider the following examples:

- James is talking to a friend on the phone. He says: **I'm reading** an interesting novel at the moment. James is not reading the novel at the time of speaking., but he means that he has started it, and not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

**1-3** The present continuous can be used with adverbs of time like: **today** / **this week** / **this year** etc. (periods around now):

- **a** : you' re **teaching** all classes **today**. (not You work hard today)
- **b**: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The institute I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

**1-4** When discussing changes that are occurring at present, we use the present continuous tense, particularly with specific verbs, such as: get/ change/ become/ increase/ rise/ fall.

- **Is** your Spanish **getting** better? (not Does your English get better)

- The population of the country **is increasing** fast. (not increases) (Murphy, 2012, p. 02).

**Exercise01:** Complete the sentences using the following verbs: **Start/ get/ increase/ change/ rise.**

- 1- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.
- 2- The world..... Things never stay the same.
- 3- The situation is already bad and it ..... worse.
- 4- The cost of Living ..... Every year things are more expensive.

The weather .....to improve. The rain has stopped, and the wind isn't as strong.  
(Murphy, 2012, p. 03).