

The sun is shining / Presente Continuo.

Una vez hemos aprendido a formar y a utilizar el tiempo más básico de los verbos en inglés (presente simple), nos disponemos a dar un paso adelante hacia el siguiente tiempo verbal: el presente continuo. Conviene aprenderlos de manera consecutiva para observar las diferencias que los separan ya que son más que sus semejanzas. No se parecen ni en su formación ni en su uso. De hecho y, afortunadamente, son casi opuestos: esto nos facilitará la labor a la hora de distinguirlos. Hasta tal punto son diferentes que el presente continuo sirve para expresar acciones en el futuro (no sólo en el presente). Además, una vez vista la tabla de símbolos de los sonidos en la unidad 1, nos adentraremos en uno de los misterios de la lengua inglesa: ¿Por qué no se lee como se escribe?



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1. Presente continuo

Como apuntábamos en la presentación de la unidad, son más las diferencias que lo separan del presente simple (Unidad 3.1) que sus semejanzas: no se parecen ni en su formación ni en su uso, lo cual hará más sencillo que los distingamos sin problemas.

Empezamos por apuntar cuándo se usan:

1.1. Usos

Usamos este tiempo verbal para:

- Referirse a acciones que están sucediendo en el momento en que se está hablando.

We are watching TV at the moment Estamos viendo la tele ahora.

Where is your sister? ¿Dónde está tu hermana?

She is having a shower Se está duchando

- Para describir un estado temporal o de un periodo de un tiempo limitado.

My son is studying at university. Mi hijo estudia en la universidad

This year I am learning German Este año estudio alemán

- Para referirnos a acontecimientos o planes futuros.

They are not leaving until the end of the year. No se van a ir hasta final de año

She's travelling to London next month. Va a viajar a Londres el próximo mes

1.2. Formación

Como regla general, se puede decir que a la forma de los verbos en infinitivo se le añade el sufijo -ING. Más adelante veremos otros casos en detalle en el apartado 1.3. Reglas ortográficas.

Por otro lado, las reglas en cuanto a la formación de la negación y la interrogación se mantienen semejantes con respecto al presente simple. Veamos:

| Affirmative | Negative | Interrogative |
|--|--|--|
| I am working You are working He is working She is working It is working We are working You are working They are working | I am not working You are not working He is not working She is not working It is not working We are not working You are not working They are not working | Am I working? Are you working? Is he working? Is she working? Is it working? Are we working? Are you working? Are they working? |
| Formas cortas/ Contracted forms | | |
| I am = I'm | He is = He's | They are = They're |
| I am not = I'm not | She is not = She isn't | We are not = We aren't |

Para ver la conjugación de otros verbos diferentes, observa cómo se conjugan éstos:

visit, travel, arrive, go, play, come

| Affirmative | Negative | Interrogative + Short answers |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| I am visiting... | I am not visiting ... | Am I visiting? Yes, I am/No, I'm not |
| You are travelling... | You are not travelling | Are you travelling? Yes, you are/No, you aren't |
| He/She/It is arriving | He/She/It is not arriving | Is he/she/ it arriving? Yes, he, she, it is No, he, she, it isn't |
| We are going... | We are not going... | Are we going? Yes, we are/No, we aren't |
| You are playing... | You are not playing... | Are you playing? Yes, you are/No, you aren't |
| They are coming... | They are not coming | Are they coming? Yes, they are/No, they aren't |

1.3. Reglas ortográficas de la forma -ing

Como regla general se puede decir que simplemente se añade la terminación -ING al verbo en infinitivo:

| | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| to work | → | working |
| to play | → | playing |

Casos particulares:

-Verbos acabados en -e muda: la -e se pierde +ING

| | | |
|---------|---|--------|
| to live | → | living |
| to come | → | coming |

-Verbos acabados en -ie: la -ie se convierte en -y +ING

| | | |
|--------|---|-------|
| to die | → | dying |
| to lie | → | lying |

-Verbos acentuados en la última sílaba, y que acaban en vocal + consonante: la consonante final se duplica + ING

| | | |
|----------|---------|-------------|
| to stop | → p + p | → stopping |
| to begin | → n + n | → beginning |

-Verbos acabados en -L: la L se duplica (LL) +ING

| | | |
|------------|---|-------------|
| to travel | → | travelling |
| to quarrel | → | quarrelling |

-Verbos acabados en -ic: a la -c se le añade una -k +ING

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------|
| to picnic | → c + k | → picnicking |
| to panic | → c + k | → panicking |

Actividad 1. Write the -ing form of the following verbs:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|------|----------------|-------|--------------|
| work | working | live | living | put | putting | die | dying |
| sleep | | write | | stop | | lie | |
| read | | come | | sit | | speak | |
| drink | | make | | swim | | sleep | |

2. Expresiones de tiempo

RECUERDA

Como vimos en la unidad anterior sobre el **presente simple**, las expresiones de tiempo reforzaban la idea de frecuencia, regularidad o habitualidad.

I play tennis on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Juego al tenis los martes y los jueves.

I always have lunch at two o'clock.

Yo siempre como a las dos.

Sin embargo, en el caso del **presente continuo**, las expresiones de tiempo implican inmediatez como:

I am reading now

Estoy leyendo ahora

She is speaking on the phone at the moment

Está hablando por teléfono en este momento.

En cualquier caso, hay expresiones de tiempo específicas para cada uso que se le puede dar al tiempo. Veamos:

– Para describir una acción que ocurre en el momento en que se habla, usamos:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ▪ now | ahora |
| ▪ right now | ahora mismo |
| ▪ at the/this moment | en este momento |
| ▪ at present | en el presente, ahora |
| ▪ Look! / Listen! | ¡Mire! / ¡Escuche! |

– Para hablar de acciones que ocurren en un periodo de tiempo más amplio, usamos:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ this morning / afternoon / evening | esta mañana, esta tarde |
| ▪ today | hoy |
| ▪ this month | este mes |

- this year este año

– Para hablar de planes en un futuro próximo podemos usar:

- tomorrow mañana
 - tonight esta noche
 - next week la próxima semana
 - next sunday el próximo domingo

Actividad 2. Complete with the affirmative form of the verbs in the present continuous tense.

1. He (to play) football right now. → *He is playing football right now*
 2. Sssh ! Be quiet! The baby (to sleep).
 3. I (to study) English.
 4. They (to listen) to some music.
 5. Look! It (to snow).
 6. Lauren (to work) today.
 7. We (to build) our own house.
 8. John (to help) mum in the kitchen.

Actividad 3. Complete with the negative form of the verbs in the present continuous tense.

1. The sun _____ (to shine). It is raining → *isn't shining*
 2. The baby _____ (to cry). It is sleeping.
 3. I _____ (to go) to school this week. It is a holiday!
 4. She _____ (to wear) a coat today. It's warm.
 5. They _____ (to work) hard. They are being lazy.
 6. Jenny and Lauren _____ (to argue). They are having fun.
 7. He _____ (to run). He is sleeping.

Actividad 4. Complete the sentences with the affirmative or negative forms of the verbs.



Penélope Cruz



Halle Berry and Gwyneth Paltrow



You

Fuente: <http://www.edu.xunta.es>

Ejemplo:

Penélope Cruz *is not drinking* (drink) water.

1. Penélope Cruz (wear) a black dress
2. Halle and Gwyneth (wear) black dresses.
3. I (wear) a black dress
4. Penélope Cruz (smile)
5. Halle and Gwyneth (smile).
6. I (smile).
7. Penélope, Halle and Gwyneth (hold) an Oscar award.
8. I (hold) an Oscar award.

Actividad 5. Complete with the interrogative form of the verb in the present continuous form.

1. Peter / to play / the piano → *Is Peter playing the piano?*
2. you / to listen / to me
3. Lauren / to lie / on the floor
4. your friend / to have / dinner
5. they / to swim / in the lake
6. she / to read / a newspaper
7. they / to wait / for the bus
8. he / to drink / tea

Actividad 6. Read the dialogue to complete the verbs.

Joey: Hi Lauren! What (1. to do/you)..... ?

Lauren: I (2. to go) to the bank. What about you?

Joey: I (3. to look) for a new tennis racquet. I (4. to play) a lot of tennis at the moment, so I need a new one.

Lauren: Where is Maria? Do you know?

Joey: She isn't in England at the moment. She (5. to work) in France for a month. She (6.to sing) in a night-club.

Lauren: Really? What about Ashley and James? What (7.to do/they) ?

Joey: They (8. to study) for an exam. They're in the library at the moment.

Lauren: Well it was nice to see you again, but now I have to go.
Bye.

Actividad 7. Read the message from Jenny and Jim and fill in the blanks

Hi Lauren,

Jenny and I (1. to stay)... **are staying**.... here in Spain
for 3 weeks. The sun (2. to shine)
and it is very warm. We (3. to sit) on
the beach and I (4. to drink) a
sangria. We (5. to watch) the boats
on the sea at the moment. The children (6.to swim)
..... in the sea. Jenny (7.to read)
..... a magazine and I (8. to write)
..... all the messages!

Love from Jenny and Jim

Actividad 8. Look at the picture of *Modern Family*. Complete with right form of the verb for each member of the family with a number.



Fuente: <http://www.edu.xunta.es/web/>

1. My name's Luke Dunphy (number 1). I (sit) on the floor next to my sister Alex.
2. She's Alex, my sister. She (sit) on the floor next to me.
3. She's my other sister, Haley. She (sit) on the sofa next to my mum.
4. She's my mother, Claire. She (sit) on the sofa next to her brother, Mitchell. She (talk) to him at the moment
5. He's my father, Phil Dunphy. He (stand) next to my grandfather's new wife, my "grandma" Gloria. He (smile) now.
6. He's Mitchell, my uncle. He (sit) next to my mother. He (listen) to her.
7. He's Cameron, my uncle's husband. He (wear) jeans. He (point) at Gloria. He (hold) his daughter in his arms. Her name's Lily.
8. My grandfather Jay (stand) next to Cameron. He's married to Gloria.
9. They are Gloria and Manny, her son. They are from Colombia but they (live) here now. Gloria (look) at Lily.

3. Presente continuo con valor de futuro

Ya señalábamos al hablar de los usos de este tiempo que, aparte de describir una acción que ocurre en el momento en que se habla y hablar de acciones que ocurren en un periodo de tiempo presente más amplio, había un tercer uso muy importante:

APRENDE

- *Para hablar sobre **acontecimientos o planes en el futuro** que ya están planeados de antemano.*
- *Tenemos bastante seguridad de que lo planeado va a suceder (no es una hipótesis) ya que hay algún tipo de indicio u obligación que hará que eso ocurra.*
- *Lo empleamos siempre que el sujeto sea un ser animado (¡las "cosas" no hacen planes!).*
- *Este uso no existe en español: usaríamos el presente simple con valor de futuro
¡Mañana cocino yo! → Tomorrow I am cooking!*
- *En español, sólo podemos usar el presente continuo para hablar del presente, nunca del futuro.*
- *Es muy similar a la forma "going to" y a menudo ambas formas se pueden usar indistintamente.*
- *Es importante acompañarlo de una expresión de tiempo para dejar claro que se hace referencia al futuro y no al presente: next, tomorrow,...*

Ejemplos:

Lala is visiting us on Saturday

Lala nos visitará el sábado

"I'm playing tennis" = "I am playing tennis at the moment"

Estoy jugando al tenis (ahora)

"I'm playing tennis tomorrow afternoon"

Voy a jugar al tenis mañana por la tarde

She's coming to my party tomorrow

Ella viene (va a venir) a mi fiesta mañana

Is your mother buying a new car tomorrow? ¿Va a comprarse tu madre un coche nuevo mañana?

Actividad 9. Write the following sentences in English using the present continuous tense meaning future.

1. Mañana voy de compras
 2. Mis padres se van de vacaciones mañana
 3. La semana que viene me compro una casa nueva
 4. El próximo año voy a estudiar a Canadá
 5. Ella tiene el examen mañana

4. Contraste entre presente simple y presente continuo

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| <p>Verbos estáticos: nunca se usan en tiempos continuos. Expresan sentimientos y procesos mentales.</p> <p>Do you like fish? -¿Te gusta el pescado?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like (gustar), love (encantar), hate (odiar), prefer (preferir), want (querer)... Remember (recordar), forget (olvidar), think (pensar), understand (entender), know (saber)... | <p>Expresiones típicas:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>this morning / afternoon / evening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>esta mañana, esta tarde</td> </tr> <tr> <td>today hoy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>this month este mes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>this year este año</td> </tr> </table> <p>Para planes en un futuro próximo Tonight I'm going to the cinema with some friends. -Esta noche voy al cine con unos amigos</p> <p>Expresiones típicas:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Tomorrow mañana</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tonight esta noche</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Next week/next Sunday... - la próxima semana, el próximo domingo...</td> </tr> </table> | this morning / afternoon / evening | esta mañana, esta tarde | today hoy | this month este mes | this year este año | Tomorrow mañana | Tonight esta noche | Next week/next Sunday... - la próxima semana, el próximo domingo... |
| this morning / afternoon / evening | | | | | | | | | |
| esta mañana, esta tarde | | | | | | | | | |
| today hoy | | | | | | | | | |
| this month este mes | | | | | | | | | |
| this year este año | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomorrow mañana | | | | | | | | | |
| Tonight esta noche | | | | | | | | | |
| Next week/next Sunday... - la próxima semana, el próximo domingo... | | | | | | | | | |

Quizá en este esquema lo puedes ver más claro:

Present simple

Repeated actions and habits.
Ursula Starr sings songs.



Actions happening over a long period of time.

The turtle lives in its house.



Present continuous

Something happening now.
Tim is singing a song.



Actions happening over a short period of time.

He is staying in a tent this holiday.



Fuente: <http://www.learnenglish.be/>

Usa el presente simple con verbos que indican procesos mentales o sentimientos:

The pig thinks about its future.



The hedgehog loves the cactus.



The moon goes round the earth.



Fuente: <http://www.learnenglish.be/>

Actividad 10. Place (coloca**) the sentences in the chart according to the verb tense.**

1. Please be quiet! I'm working.
2. What do you do at the weekend?
3. Look at that woman! She's running very fast.
4. It rains very much in the spring.
5. Listen! Lady Gaga is singing a beautiful song.
6. I always eat cereal in the morning.
7. She's sending a text message at the moment.
8. My boyfriend plays rugby twice a week.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <u>Present simple</u> | |
| <u>Present continuous</u> | |

Actividad 11. Put the time expressions on the right side of the chart:

every day - at the moment - right now - never –

twice a month - on Sundays - three times a day –

now - every evening - sometimes.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | |
| | <u>Present</u> <u>simple</u> | | |
| | <u>Present</u> <u>continuous</u> | | |

Actividad 12. Choose the right option: present simple or continuous?

1. We play / are playing football every evening.
2. I never drink / I am never drinking alcohol at the weekend.
3. We eat / are eating fish twice a week.
4. Lisa wears / is wearing a new T-shirt at the moment.
5. What do you do / are you doing on Mondays?
6. What does Lala do / is Lala doing right now?
7. Listen! Somebody sings /'s singing.

Actividad 13. Present simple o present continuous?

1. Women (to drive) more carefully than men.
2. Ann (to take) a shower at the moment.
3. Water (to boil) at 100 degrees Celsius.
4. This summer my father (to work) in Australia.
5. I (not to smoke) because it's a bad habit.
6. He's a dentist. He (to repair) people's teeth.
7. Shhh!!!. I (to listen) to the radio.
8. John (to hate) cats.

Actividad 14. Put the words in order to form sentences in the present simple or present continuous.

1. you / to have / dinner / at the moment → *He is having dinner at the moment*
2. he / every day / to read / the newspaper
3. it / to snow / much / in your country
4. you / to do / usually / your homework / on a computer
5. you / now / to drink / coffee
6. they / to drink / every day / tea
7. she / to work / right now
8. children / to eat / at school / lunch

READING

Actividad 15. Read the text. Answer the questions. Write complete sentences.

17th August

Hi, Jenny!

I'm sending you a letter from the Spanish coast. I'm on holiday here with my family. I'm writing this letter on the beach!

We're staying in a really nice hotel next to the beach. There are a lot of young people here. There's a disco at the hotel every evening –it's really cool.

At the moment dad is swimming in the sea. Mum isn't swimming but she's wearing her bikini and she's reading a book. My brother is shopping –he wants to buy some new shorts and a cap. I can see him now – he's trying on some funny hats!

I hope you're having a good holiday in England.

Send me a postcard!

Love,

Lauren

1-Where is Lauren at the moment?

.....
2-How often is there a disco at the hotel?

.....
3-What's Lauren dad doing?

.....
4-What does Laure's brother want to buy?

.....
5-Where is Jenny spending her holiday?

WRITING

Actividad 15. Imagine you are on holiday. Write a postcard to a friend.

Use the questions in the box to help you.

- Where are you staying?
- What are you doing at the moment?
- What are your family doing?

Dear friend,

5. Pronunciación

5.1. La vocal – i –: diferentes pronunciasiones

¿Por qué la lengua inglesa no se lee como se escribe? Esta es una de las grandes dudas que nos acechan cuando nos dedicamos a la tarea de aprender inglés.

Podemos empezar respondiendo que en cierta medida, las letras dependen del contexto, o sea, de los sonidos que preceden y siguen.

Básicamente, la letra (también denominada grafía) – i – puede tener dos pronunciasiones diferentes: /i/ y /ai/.

Así nos encontramos con palabras tan frecuentes como pink o like donde la misma letra se pronuncia diferente:

pink → la vocal – i – se pronuncia /i/ como en español

like → la vocal – i – se pronuncia /ai/ → /laik/

Como indicábamos, el hecho de que en el primer caso la -i- vaya seguida de dos consonantes (p-i-nk) y en *like* (li-k-e) le siga una consonante y una –e muda, es decisivo para su pronunciación.

Ejercicio 1. Which of the following words is pronounced /i/ or /ai/ ?

Write them down in the right column:

bicycle cinema climb fish hike drive ship swim

| /i/ | /ai/ |
|-----|------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Pronuncia en voz alta cada palabra antes de realizar el ejercicio.

Ejercicios de autocomprobación

Ejercicio 1. Complete with the -ing form of the following verbs:

shop, call, wash, sing, smoke, have.



He _____ himself.

She _____.

They _____

He _____

Fuente: <https://eda.educarex.es>

Ejercicio 2. Write the negative form of these sentences.

Ejemplo: I am playing chess. I am not playing chess.

- 1 I am dancing ballet now.
- 2 The child is drinking the milk at the moment.
- 3 They are coming by train.
- 4 We are swimming right now.
- 5 Spain is growing in new technologies.

Solución a los ejercicios de autocomprobación

Ejercicio 1. SOLUCIÓN

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>He is washing himself</i> | <i>She is smoking</i> | <i>They are shopping</i> | <i>He is singing</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|

Ejercicio 2. SOLUCIÓN

- 1 I am dancing ballet now. *I am not dancing ballet now.*
- 2 The child is drinking the milk at the moment. *The child isn't drinking the milk at the moment.*
- 3 They are coming by train. *They aren't coming by train.*
- 4 We are swimming right now. *We aren't swimming right now.*
- 5 Spain is growing in new technologies. *Spain isn't growing in new technologies.*

Sitios web de referencia

Para repasar o ampliar lo que has aprendido a lo largo de esta unidad te recomendamos una serie de sitios web que te podrán ayudar:

<http://w3.cnice.mec.es/eos/MaterialesEducativos>
<http://serbal.pntic.mec.es>
<http://www.isabelperez.com>
<http://www.shertonenglish.com/resources/>
<http://www.mansioningles.com>