

## A2 TEENS · GRAMMAR · LESSON 02

# Caught in the Act

## *weird things people do in public*

A woman **is singing** to her plants at the bus stop. A man **is eating** spaghetti with his hands on the train. What is happening right now? In this lesson, you will learn the **Present Continuous** to describe things happening at this moment.

🕒 45 min · ✓ CEFR A2 · ♦ Present Continuous · ♦ Public Behaviour

### 01

## WARM-UP

## What are people doing right now?

### Before we start...

Close your eyes for 10 seconds and imagine your street right now. Then answer:

1. What is the weather doing? Is it raining? Is the sun shining?
2. Is your neighbour doing something loud right now?
3. What is the strangest thing you have seen a stranger do in public?
4. Right now, are you sitting, standing, or lying down?

### 02

## GRAMMAR FOCUS

## Present Continuous — actions happening now

### When do we use Present Continuous?

We use the Present Continuous for actions **happening right now**, or **around this time** (this week, these days).

**NOW**Look! That man **is dancing** in the supermarket.**THESE DAYS**I **am reading** a really weird book this week.**AROUND NOW**My sister **is learning** to juggle this month.

### Present Simple vs Present Continuous

This is the most important thing to understand. Same verb, different meaning!

**PRESENT SIMPLE****Always / usually / every day**

"She **eats** pasta every Tuesday."  
 (It's her habit.)

**PRESENT CONTINUOUS****Right now / at this moment**

"Look! She **is eating** pasta — with her hands!"  
 (She is doing it now.)

**How do we build the sentence?**✓ **POSITIVE**

**subject** + **am / is / are** + **verb-ing** = **I am dancing**

**he / she / it** + **is** + **verb-ing** = **She is dancing**

× **NEGATIVE**

**subject** + **am/is/are not** + **verb-ing** = **She isn't dancing**

? **QUESTION**

**am/is/are** + **subject** + **verb-ing ?** = **Is she dancing?**

## Spelling rules for -ING

Adding **-ing** is easy, but watch these small rules!

RULE	EXAMPLES
<b>Most verbs: just add -ing</b>	play → playing, eat → eating, watch → watching
<b>Verb ends in -e: drop the e, add -ing</b>	dance → dancing, write → writing, make → making
<b>Short CVC: double the consonant</b>	run → running, sit → sitting, swim → swimming
<b>Ends in -ie: change to -ying</b>	lie → lying, die → dying, tie → tying

✦ **SIGNAL WORDS — THESE MEAN "NOW"!**

**now · right now · at the moment · at present · today · this week · these days · Look! · Listen!**

### 03

#### KEY VOCABULARY

## Words you will meet in the article

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<b>weird</b> <i>adjective</i>	strange, not normal	<i>That's a weird hat — it has three ears!</i>
<b>stranger</b> <i>noun</i>	a person you don't know	<i>A stranger is smiling at me.</i>
<b>public</b> <i>adjective</i>	in a place where everyone can see	<i>Please don't sing in public!</i>
<b>stare</b> <i>verb</i>	to look at someone for a long time	<i>Why is that woman staring at me?</i>
<b>whisper</b> <i>verb</i>	to speak very quietly	<i>He is whispering to his phone.</i>
<b>shout</b> <i>verb</i>	to speak very loudly	<i>Stop shouting — I can hear you!</i>
<b>carry</b> <i>verb</i>	to hold and move something	<i>She is carrying five shopping bags.</i>
<b>notice</b> <i>verb</i>	to see something you didn't see before	<i>Nobody notices the man on the bench.</i>
<b>pretend</b> <i>verb</i>	to act like something is true	<i>He's pretending to be a cat.</i>

<b>nearby</b> <i>adverb</i>	close to this place	<i>A dog is barking nearby.</i>
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04

READING

## Four moments, four weird scenes

STREET DIARIES · ISSUE 02

# Caught in the Act

## *what I'm seeing right now*

Four photos, four stories — all happening this minute

*I'm a photographer. I walk around the city with my camera and I watch people. I'm writing this from four different places today. Everything here **is happening right now**.*

### Bus Stop

10:42 AM

I'm sitting on a bench. A woman next to me **is talking** to her shopping bag. Yes — to her bag. "You're heavy today," she is saying. "Why are you so heavy?" Two teenagers **are looking** at her and **laughing**. A small dog **is watching** everything from a nearby window. The woman **is not noticing** anyone. She **is enjoying** her conversation with her bag. I **am trying** not to laugh.

### City Park

1:15 PM

Now I **am walking** through the park. A man in a business suit **is climbing** a tree. His briefcase is on the grass. He **isn't smiling**. He **is climbing** like this is normal. Near him, a little boy **is staring** at the man with his mouth open. The boy's mother **is pretending** not to see anything. She **is reading** her phone very carefully. I **am taking** a photo.

### Metro Train

4:30 PM

The train **is moving** fast. A young man next to me **is eating** a whole pizza — a big one, with his hands. Cheese **is falling** on his jacket. He **is not caring**. He **is happy**. An old man across from us **is watching** him and smiling. "Good pizza?" the old man **is asking**. "Very good!" the pizza man **is answering** with his mouth full. Now they **are talking** about the best pizza in town. Life is beautiful.

### Main Square

7:00 PM

The sun **is setting**. In the main square, a group of people **are dancing** — but there's **no music**. They **are wearing** headphones. It's a silent disco! An old woman with a small dog **is stopping** and **watching**. She **is starting** to dance too, but slowly. Her dog **is looking** up at her like, "What **are you doing**?" Tourists **are taking** photos. I **am putting** my camera away. Tonight, I just want to watch.

**Photographer's note:** *The world is weird and wonderful. Tomorrow I'll see four new scenes. What strange things are happening around **you** right now?*

05

PRACTICE

## Fill in the blanks

★ Read each sentence and circle the correct option below. Watch the -ing spelling rules!

- 1 Look! That man \_\_\_\_\_ a tree in the park.  
 is climb                       is climbing                       climbs
- 2 The dogs \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden right now.  
 are runing                       is running                       are running
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ a letter to my grandma this afternoon.  
 am writeing                       am writing                       is writing
- 4 My brother \_\_\_\_\_ to me at the moment.  
 isn't listening                       don't listen                       aren't listening
- 5 Listen! The neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ a song.  
 sing                       are singing                       is singing
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ that magazine now?  
 Do you read                       Are you read                       Are you reading
- 7 The baby \_\_\_\_\_ on the blanket.  
 is lieing                       is lying                       lies
- 8 Look at her! She \_\_\_\_\_ with her shopping bag!  
 dances                       is danceing                       is dancing

06

SPEAKING

## Describe the scene

**What's happening in the picture?**

Work with a partner. Describe a busy place — a school cafeteria, a beach, a wedding, a concert. Ask each other these questions and use the Present Continuous!

- ▶ Where are we? What are you seeing?
- ▶ Who is there? What are they wearing?
- ▶ What strange or funny things are happening?

- ▶ What are you doing in the scene? Are you having fun?
- ▶ What is the weather doing?

**EXAMPLE CONVERSATION**

**A:** OK, we are at the beach. What are you seeing?

**B:** A boy is making a huge sandcastle. His little sister is destroying it!

**A:** Oh no! Is she laughing?

**B:** Yes, she is. And now her mum is running towards them.

**A:** Is the sun shining?

**B:** It's shining, but a big cloud is coming. I think it's going to rain!



**3. I \_\_\_\_ a movie at the moment. I'll call you later.**

- A. watch
- B. am watch
- C. am watching
- D. is watching

**4. \_\_\_\_ your sister dancing right now?**

- A. Do
- B. Does
- C. Is
- D. Are

**5. Choose the correct spelling:**

- A. She is writeing a poem.
- B. She is writting a poem.
- C. She is writing a poem.
- D. She writing a poem.

**6. Which one is Present Continuous, NOT Present Simple?**

- A. I play football every Saturday.
- B. Tigers eat meat.
- C. She speaks three languages.
- D. Look — the cat is sleeping on my laptop!

**7. The dogs \_\_\_\_ loudly. Can you close the window?**

- A. is barking
- B. are barking
- C. barks
- D. bark

**8. Choose the correct negative:**

- A. He not eating now.
- B. He doesn't eating now.
- C. He isn't eat now.
- D. He isn't eating now.

**ANSWER KEY**

**Fill in the blanks:**

1. is climbing · 2. are running · 3. am writing · 4. isn't listening  
5. are singing · 6. Are you reading · 7. is lying · 8. is dancing

**Quiz:**

1. B · 2. C · 3. C · 4. C · 5. C · 6. D · 7. B · 8. D

*Great work! Next lesson: Present Simple vs Continuous — "Influencer life: real vs fake moments."*