**Continuous Verb Forms**

We use continuous verb forms to describe actions which we see happening over a period of time. Simple verb forms we are not interested in this sense of duration.

* We may also see the situation as temporary.
* The situation happening around a point of time.
* The situation involving some type of change or development.
* The activity being incomplete.

**Present continuous** – actions happening at the moment of speaking, a point of time.

**Past continuous** – finished actions happening around a finished point of time.

**Future continuous** – a future activity planned for a future point of time.

**Present perfect continuous** – an activity which started in the past and is either incomplete or recently finished.

**Past perfect continuous** – a finished activity which started and continued up until another finished activity.

**Future perfect continuous** – shows the duration of a future activity before a future point of time.

**Continuous infinitive** **(be/to be + gerund)** – emphasizes that an action is in progress at a particular time.

* *Wherever you go nowadays, everyone seems* ***to be*** *speak****ing*** *English.*

**Special uses of Continuous forms**

**Always, constantly, forever, continually + present/past continuous**

* This form stresses the repetitiveness of the action and often indicates that the speaker finds the repeated action surprising, strange or irritating.
* *I am forever losing my keys.* ***(irritating)***
* *She is always winning the lottery.* ***(surprising)***
* *He is constantly walking past my house.* ***(strange)***

**Always + present/past continuous**

* To describe good or bad typical habits.
* *He is always moaning.*
* *She is always laughing.*

**Present continuous to describe current trends**

* To describe current trends, we use the present continuous with verbs like: become, get (better or worse), develop, change, increase, improve, deteriorate. These forms are also commonly used with adverbs like: rapidly, quickly, slowly, increasingly which give more detail.
* *Self-tracking is becoming mainstream.*
* *This trend is rapidly changing what we know and how we live.*

**Present continuous for future arrangements**

* Is commonly used to describe future arrangements with a future time phrase.
* *What are you doing over Christmas?*
* *Alice and I are meeting at Pacific fair later.*

**Past continuous for polite requests**

* To make requests more polite and tentative used with verbs like: wonder if and hope
* *I was wondering if you could recommend a good restaurant nearby.*
* *I was hoping you might help me fill out this form.*

**Modal verbs**

* The continuous infinitive can have a different meaning from the simple infinitive.
* *They might be staying on the Gold Coast.* ***(present possibility)***
* *They might stay on the Gold Coast.* ***(future possibility)***
* *Can you hear the loud music? Our neighbors must be having party.* ***(logical conclusion)***
* *We must have a party soon.* ***(personal obligation)***

**Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb/adverb in brackets.**

1. Have you got any plans for the summer? Yes, we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a couple of weeks at my uncle's house in the mountains.
2. Shall we ring your parents to say why we're late? They must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (get) worried.
3. How can we decide on where to spend our holiday if you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (constantly / change) your mind?
4. Are you going home already? I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (hope) you'd give me a hand with the washing-up.
5. Stuart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (forever / devise) ridiculous schemes which he thinks will attract more business.
6. Let's call Patrick. He might \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (know) the answer.
7. This isn't really a good time to phone him. He might \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (work) on his assignment.
8. I find it very annoying that you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (always / compare) my cooking to your mother's.
9. Excuse me! My friend and I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wonder if) you'd mind having your photograph taken with us.
10. You really must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (make) more of an effort to make friends.
11. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (travel) around Europe this coming Summer.
12. Wearing a mask \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (become) a common thing to do every day.
13. My sister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ complaining about the traffic.
14. Most people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (seem / worry) quite a lot about the rise in unemployment.
15. What I find the most annoying thing about him, is the way he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (continually / clean) his car.

**Write an example sentence of your own for each special use of the continuous forms.**

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)