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DSE exercises covering popular HKDSE themes and text types

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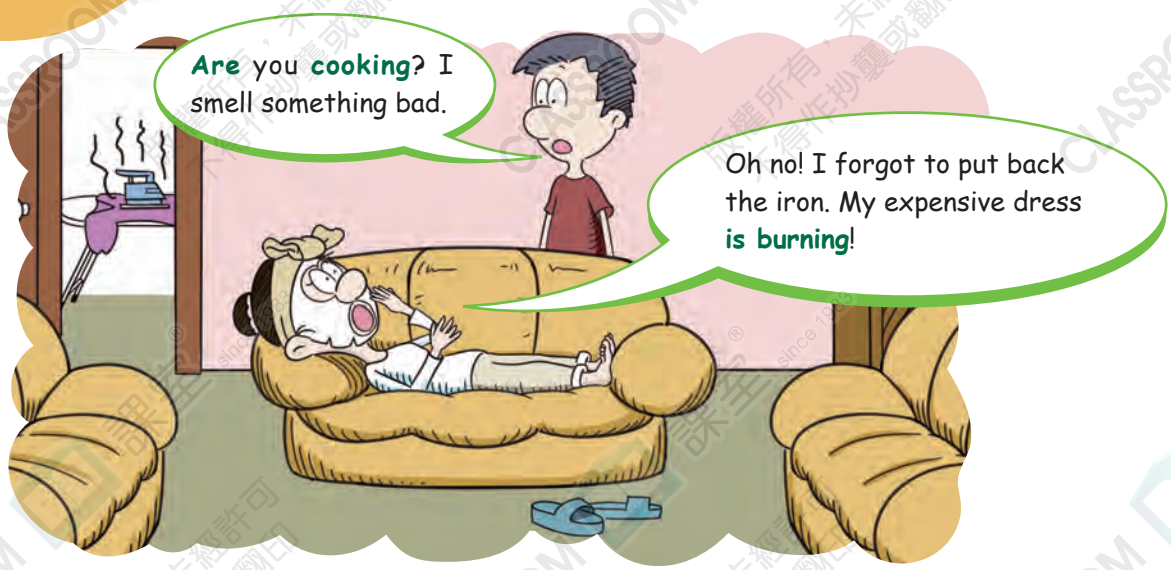
2 The present continuous



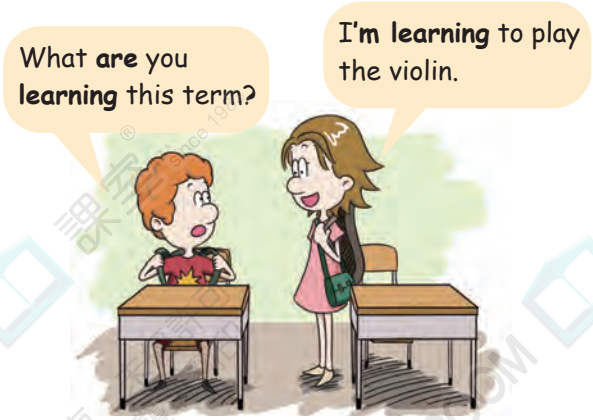
Usage

We use the present continuous tense to:

1. talk about what is going on at the time of speaking or writing.

We usually use the present continuous tense with time expressions such as *now* and *at the moment*.

2. talk about temporary situations.



We usually use the present continuous tense with time expressions such as *currently*, *this week / month*, and *at present*.

3. describe the actions in photos or pictures.

Part 1 Statements

We form statements in the present continuous tense in the following ways:

Positive statement		
I	**am / 'm**	**playing**.
You / We / They	**are / 're**	
He / She / It	**is / 's**	

Negative statement		
I	**am not / 'm not**	**playing**.
You / We / They	**are not / aren't**	
He / She / It	**is not / isn't**	

When we form the continuous form of the verbs, we need to change the spelling of verbs in the following ways:

Verb	Change	Example	
Most verbs	+ **ing**	read ➔ read**ing**	do ➔ do**ing**
Verbs ending in *-e*	~~*e*~~ + **ing**	make ➔ mak**ing**	give ➔ giv**ing**
Verbs ending in one vowel + a consonant (except *w*, *x*, *y*)	double the consonant + **ing**	set ➔ set**ting**	run ➔ run**ning**
Verbs ending in *-ie*	~~*ie*~~ + **y** + **ing**	lie ➔ l**ying**	die ➔ d**ying**

Exercise 1

Claire is talking on the phone with Daniel. She is describing what is happening at the Avenue of Stars. Complete her description with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Ella and Flora _____ (buy) souvenirs at the stall.
2. The painter _____ (paint) a portrait of Mrs Davies.
3. Mrs Davies _____ (pose) for a portrait.
4. James and Charles _____ (chat) happily.
5. Lucy _____ (fall) from the handrail!

Part 2 *Yes* / *No*-questions

We form *yes* / *no*-questions and short answers in the present continuous tense in the following ways:

Question		
Am	I	**talking** too much?
Are	you / we / they	
Is	he / she / it	

Short answer		
Yes,	I	**am**.
	you / we / they	**are**.
	he / she / it	**is**.
No,	I	**am not / 'm not**.
	you / we / they	**are not / aren't**.
	he / she / it	**is not / isn't**.

Exercise 2

Form questions and answers using the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. **A:** *Is Matt playing online games?* (Matt / play online games)

   B: No, *he is not / he isn't*.

2. **A:** _____ (you / go home)

   B: Yes, I am.

3. **A:** Am I attracting your attention?

   B: No, _____.

4. **A:** Is the bull rushing towards a blue cape?

   B: No, _____.

5. **A:** _____ (we / set off for Beijing)

   B: No, _____.

6. **A:** _____ (the dog / bite Mr Hughes)

   B: Yes, _____!

7. **A:** _____ (the students / lie to the teacher)

   B: Yes, _____.

Part 3 Other Verbs

Some verbs are **NOT** usually used in the continuous form. These verbs usually show non-actions such as senses, feelings, possession and states of mind. Here are some common examples:

Sense	see, hear, smell, taste, feel
Feeling	like, want, love, hate, prefer
Possession	belong, own, possess, have
State of mind	know, forget, remember, believe, need, guess, hope
Others	seem, sound, consist, appear, cost, contain

e.g. ✗ *I **am knowing** the answer.*

✓ *I **know** the answer.*

e.g. ✗ *Her diet **is** mainly **consisting** of vegetables.*

✓ *Her diet mainly **consists** of vegetables.*

Exercise 3.1

Draw a line to link up all the verbs that are NOT usually used in the continuous form. Then, find out the hidden picture.

talk	stay	need	build	draw	rest
run	ride	sound	consist	go	feed
sit	shout	forget	sleep	smell	eat
write	bring	have	drink	love	throw
wait	cry	want	blow	hate	paint
fight	stick	remember	seem	hide	burn
see	own	possess	cost	hear	believe
study	Start	watch	dance	Finish	send

What is the hidden picture? _____

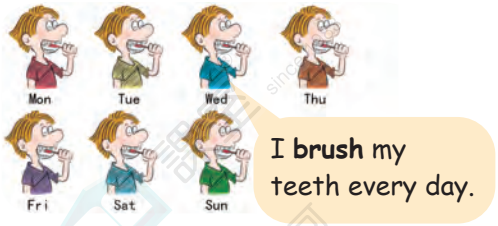
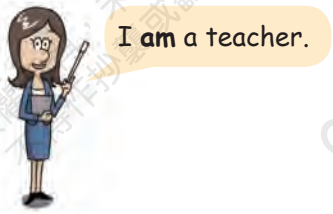
Vocabulary:

possession (n.): the state of having or owning something

consist of (ph.): to be formed from the things or people mentioned

Educator's Tips

Don't mix up the simple present tense with the present continuous tense.

The simple present	The present continuous
(a) an action that happens regularly 	**(a)** an action that is happening now
(b) a state of now 	**(b)** a situation that is temporary

Exercise 3.2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Can you turn off the television? Your brother _____ (revise) for his exam.
2. _____ Mr Brown _____ (lie) in bed at present?
3. Water _____ (freeze) at 0°C.
4. Look at this photo. June and Alan _____ (explore) the cave.
5. Look! The birds _____ (sing) on the tree!
6. Mavis doesn't like apples. She _____ (prefer) strawberries.
7. _____ you _____ (travel) in Venice at the moment?
8. This school bag is not Kelly's. It _____ (belong) to Michelle.
9. The sisters _____ (not go) to school this week.
10. _____ the cafe _____ (make) fresh coffee every day?

More theme-related vocabulary on P.126 DSE

Theme: Travelling
Text Type: Personal letter

Unit Recap

Nicole wrote a letter to her pen pal, Lucy, but she made some mistakes about the verbs. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

Dear Lucy,

How are things in Prague? **(1)** Are you like your new school life? Do you have new friends? I **(2)** am hoping everything is well.

Alfred and I **(3)** spend a wonderful time in Paris. The weather **(4)** is being nice today. The sun is shining warmly right now. I **(5)** write a letter to you in a café next to the Seine. Some people **(6)** picnic on the banks of this famous river, while some **(7)** are sunbatheing. From their faces, I can tell that they have relaxed well. The French really **(8)** are knowing how to enjoy life!

At the moment, Alfred **(9)** drinks hot black coffee. I **(10)** am prefering latte. It tastes less bitter, but both of them **(11)** are smelling very good!

Alfred **(12)** is needing to go back to work so we will leave tomorrow. However, actually, I **(13)** am not wanting to go back to Hong Kong so early! That's all for now. I look forward to your letter!

Love,
Nicole

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____

Revision 1

A. Match the phrases in Column B with those in Column A to form complete sentences. Write the correct letters in the spaces provided. Each letter can be used ONCE only.

Column A	Answer	Column B
1. Peter is busy now. He	B	**A.** are feeding the kangaroos!
2. I want to have some food. I		**B.** is talking on the phone with Mr Chan.
3. Macy doesn't feel well today. She		**C.** prefers listening to music.
4. Erica does not like singing. She		**D.** spends a lot of money on clothes.
5. Look at this photo. Ken and Jane		**E.** is taking a rest in the medical room.
6. Currently, I		**F.** feel so hungry.
7. Cathy loves fashion. She always		**G.** am learning Korean.

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Circle the adverbs and expressions of frequency, and time expressions.

1. We _____ (have) a wonderful party last week.
2. Paul _____ (not visit) the museum this morning. He was sick.
3. Angela _____ (brush) her teeth twice a day.
4. Yesterday, my grandma _____ (make) me a chocolate cake.
5. Mobile phones _____ (not be) common 30 years ago.
6. Frank's room is messy. He seldom _____ (tidy) his room. There _____ (be) toys and books everywhere.
7. Uncle John _____ (go) bankrupt in 1997. He then _____ (work) very hard in the tourism industry. After years of efforts, he now _____ (own) a big travel agency.
8. My best friends and I usually _____ (put) only a little sugar in our coffee. We _____ (not like) the sweet taste.

Grammar in Real Life 1

More theme-related vocabulary on P.128 DSE

Theme: The world of sports
Text Type: Sports commentary

Jimmy and Karl are student sports commentators. They are now reporting a live soccer match on the school radio channel. Complete their conversation with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Welcome to Sports@School. This is Jimmy.

I'm Karl. The inter-class football final **(1)** _____ (start) in a minute. We have two very competent teams. It **(2)** _____ (be) a very exciting match.

Yes, indeed. Class 1D **(3)** _____ (be) the winner last year. Although its opponent Class 1A has never won the championship before, there **(4)** _____ (be) some very promising players in Class 1A.

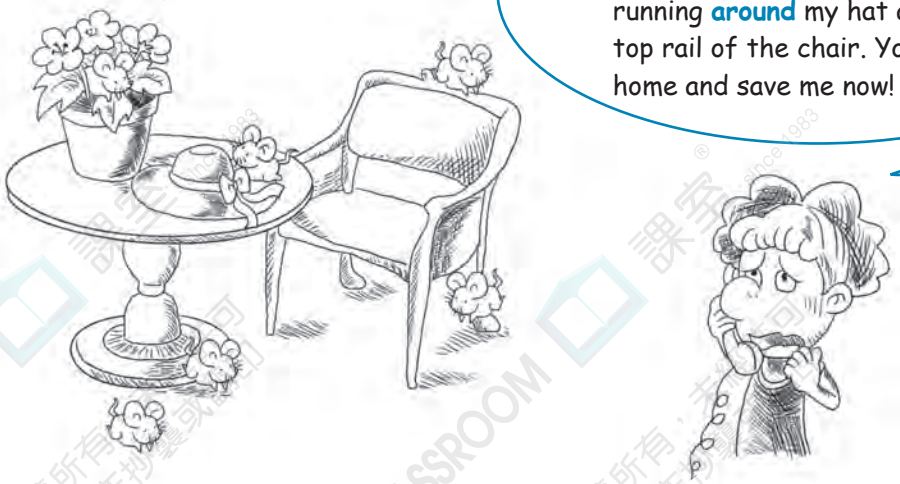
I agree. Class 1A players **(5)** _____ (wear) red jerseys whereas Class 1D are in orange. The match **(6)** _____ (begin) when the referee blows the whistle.

Well, I just **(7)** _____ (hear) the whistle. Billy from Class 1D **(8)** _____ (take) the ball from the midfield. He is about to shoot!

Oh! What a nasty tackle from Class 1A's defender! He **(9)** _____ (kick) Billy from behind. Billy **(10)** _____ (fall) over. Let's see what the referee is going to do.

Look! The referee **(11)** _____ (pull) out a card. It **(12)** _____ (be) a red card!

11 Prepositions of movement



Usage

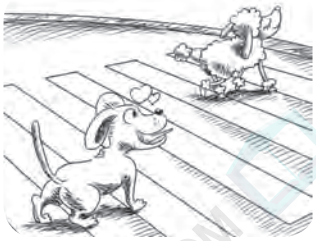
We learnt about prepositions of location and prepositions of time in *Grammar Revolution* S.1. In this unit, we are going to learn about prepositions of movement. We use a preposition of movement to show **how** someone or something **moves**. We usually put it **after an action verb** such as *drive*, *run*, *jump* and **before a noun**.

Verb Noun

e.g. *Bobby wasn't careful when it walked **across** the road.*

e.g. *Grandpa strolls **along** the river in the early morning.*

Verb Noun



Part 1 Revision: Prepositions of Location & Time

We use a preposition of location to talk about **where** someone or something is; while we use a preposition of time to talk about **when** someone does something or something happens. We put a preposition of location or time **before a noun**.

Preposition of location						Preposition of time		
above	around	at	behind	below	beside	at	between…and	during
between	in	in front of	next to	on	opposite	from…to	in	on
on top of	under					since	for	

e.g. *Tom sits **next to** Jason **in** the classroom.*

e.g. *Our school opens **from** 8 am **to** 6 pm **on** weekdays.*

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions of time or location.

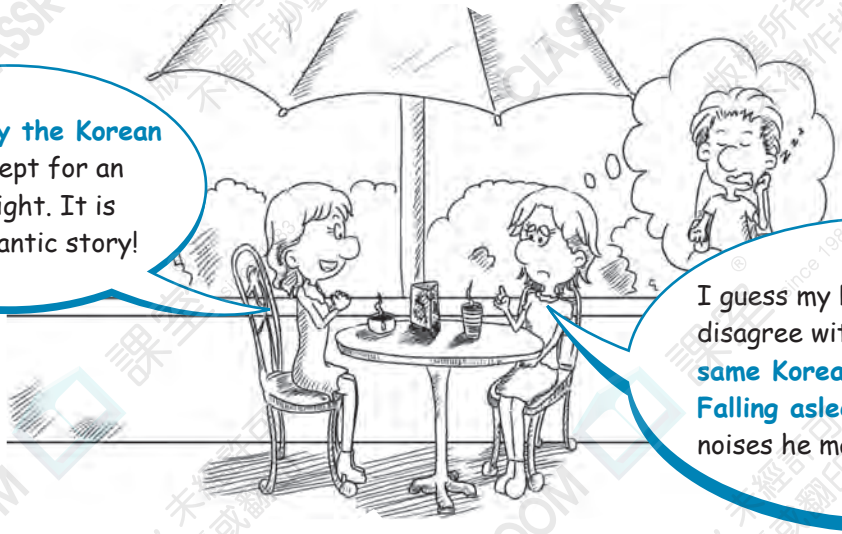
1. Mr Ho is sitting _____ the sofa. Mrs Ho is sitting _____ him.
2. A meeting will be held _____ the afternoon.
3. Were the children playing _____ the playground _____ recess?
4. Mel drinks coffee _____ the living room _____ 6:45 every morning.
5. Camellia studied _____ the UK _____ 2008 to 2010.
6. There is a green posting box _____ the bus stop and the lamppost.

Part 2 Common Prepositions of Movement

The following are some common prepositions for talking about movement.

Once upon a time, Princess Alice was caught by an evil flying dragon. So, Prince Mario travelled away from his homeland to save her. ❶ He ran along the coast to find a boat but could not find one. ❷ So, he swam across the lake. ❸ Then, he walked through the Dark Forest. ❹ Next, he flew over a range of mountains. ❺ After that, he climbed up a volcano. The stones kept rolling down the volcano. It was dangerous! ❻ Finally, Prince Mario reached the evil flying dragon's castle and walked into it bravely. ❼ When he saw the evil flying dragon, he dashed towards it, used his incredible strength to jump onto its back and killed it. He then pushed it off the cliff. ❽ At last, Prince Mario kissed Princess Alice and carried her out of the castle. They lived happily ever after.

14 Participle phrases



Usage

We use a participle phrase to give more information about the subject. There are **present** and **past participle phrases**. We usually use them at the **beginning of a sentence** followed by a comma. We can put *not* before it to express negative meanings.

	Participle phrase	Subject	
Present	**Being the youngest child,**	Harry	is spoiled by the family.
	Not feeling well,	I	called for sick leave.
Past	**Elected as the chairperson,**	Margret	felt very proud.
	Not invited to the party,	Lily	stayed at home that night.

We use a participle phrase to talk about:

1. the reason for something.

   e.g. ***Wanting to be strong,*** *Freddy works out every day.*
   (= Freddy works out every day <u>because</u> he wants to be strong.)

2. one action happening right after or in the middle of the other.

   e.g. ***Hit by a lorry,*** *the tree fell down.*
   (= The tree fell down <u>after</u> it was hit by a lorry.)

   e.g. ***Having dinner at home tonight,*** *Don saw some mice.*
   (= <u>While</u> Don was having dinner at home tonight, he saw some mice.)

** Note that we do not use **past** participle phrases to talk about one action happening in the middle of the other*

Educator's Tips

Pay attention to the use of connectives in present and past participle phrases.

e.g. *(After)* ***taking a cooking class,*** *I could make yummy dishes.*
(Present participle phrase)

e.g. ~~*After*~~ ***Taught by a chef,*** *I could make yummy dishes.*
(Past participle phrase)

More theme-related vocabulary on P.144 DSE

Theme: Leisure and hobbies
Text Type: Story

Unit Recap

Kelly is writing a story about an adventure. Complete the story by rewriting the sentences given using the correct present or past participle phrases.

(1) After they walked along the narrow paths
(2) The boys were trapped in groups of trees
(3) Both boys carried heavy backpacks
(4) While they were taking a rest
(5) As Kit was terrified by the noise
(6) Kit did not find a way out

On a sunny Saturday morning, Kit and his friend Johnny went camping. Gathering at the pier on time, they headed towards a remote island. They went to find a site for setting up their tents on their arrival. **(1)** _____, they soon got into the woods. **(2)** _____, the boys were lost. **(3)** _____, both of them felt exhausted so they took a rest. **(4)** _____, they heard a noise in the trees. **(5)** _____, Kit almost ran away but Johnny asked him to calm down.

Soon it was getting dark. **(6)** _____, Kit began to sob. 'I want to go home!' he cried. Then they heard that the noise was getting closer! They were so scared that they dashed to the opposite direction. 'Stop running! We won't hurt you!' someone shouted. The strangers were the natives there. They led the boys out of the woods carefully and the boys thanked them sincerely.

Vocabulary:
remote (adj.): far away from any towns or cities
sob (v.): to cry while taking short deep breaths

Appendix 1 Thematic vocabulary roundup

Chinese translation

Cultures of the world

Travelling and visiting

Big Buddha (n.) U1, p.4
Hong Kong Island (n.) U1, p.4
Lantau Island (n.) U1, p.4
Australia (n.) U1, p.4
overseas (adv.) U1, p.7
souvenir (n.) U2, p.11
bull (n.) U2, p.12
cape (n.) U2, p.12
set off (phr. v.) U2, p.12
Beijing (n.) U2, p.12
explore (v.) U2, p.14
Venice (n.) U2, p.14
Prague (n.) U2, p.15
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French (adj.) U2, p.15
delay (n.) U4, p.23
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New Zealand (n.) U5, p.26
travel (v.) U5, p.27
England (n.) U5, p.27
York (n.) U5, p.27
kangaroo (n.) R1, p.28
Korean (n.) R1, p.28
museum (n.) R1, p.28
tourism (n.) R1, p.28
travel agency (n.) R1, p.28
luggage (n.) U8, p.44
the UK (n.) U9, p.51
Victoria Harbour (n.) U9, p.51
Greece (n.) U9, p.51
France (n.) U9, p.51
Italy (n.) U9, p.51
Mediterranean (adj.) U9, p.51
European (adj.) U9, p.51
Thai (adj.) U17, p.91
Spain (n.) U17, p.91
South Korea (n.) U17, p.91
hang out (phr. v.) U22, p.116
attraction (n.) U23, p.119
lighthouse (n.) U23, p.119
coach (n.) GRL5, p.125
pick up (phr. v.) GRL5, p.125
punctually (adv.) GRL5, p.125
postpone (v.) GRL5, p.125

Customs, clothes and food of different places

chicken curry (n.) U1, p.6
spicy (adj.) U1, p.6
tea (n.) U1, p.6
cheese (n.) U1, p.7
sandwich (n.) U1, p.7
celebrate (v.) U1, p.7
Mid-Autumn Festival (n.) U1, p.7
milk (n.) U1, p.9
breakfast (n.) U1, p.9
strawberry (n.) U2, p.14
bitter (adj.) U2, p.15
Christmas (n.) U5, p.27
market (n.) U5, p.27
handmade (adj.) U5, p.27
decoration (n.) U5, p.27
roasted (adj.) U5, p.27
nut (n.) U5, p.27
common (adj.) R1, p.28
savoury (adj.) U9, p.46
bland (adj.) U12, p.64
superstition (n.) R3, p.75
fortune (n.) R3, p.75
taboo (n.) R3, p.75
funeral (n.) R3, p.75
stab (v.) R3, p.75
Songkran Festival (n.) U17, p.91
La Tomatina (n.) U17, p.91
mineral (n.) U17, p.91
cosmetics (n.) U17, p.91
Mud Festival (n.) U17, p.91

Appendix 2 Grammar access

2.1 Tenses overview

Simple present tense

Positive statement	Negative statement	Question	Short answer		
I / You / We / They **climb** a tree.	I / You / We / They **do not climb** / **don't climb** a tree.	**Do** I / you / we / they **climb** a tree?	Yes,	I / you / we / they	**do**.
			No,		**do not** / **don't**.
He / She / It **drinks** milk.	He / She / It **does not drinks** / **doesn't drink** milk.	**Does** he / she / it **drink** milk?	Yes,	he / she / it	**does**.
			No,		**does not** / **doesn't**.

Simple present tense (verb *to be*)

Expressions of time that indicate the simple present tense:
always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, never, every day, once a month, twice a week, three times a year

Positive statement	Negative statement	Question	Short answer		
I **am** / **'m** hungry.	I **am not** / **'m not** hungry.	**Am** I hungry?	Yes,	I	**am**.
			No,		**am not** / **'m not**.
You / We / They **are** / **'re** hungry.	You / We / They **are not** / **aren't** hungry.	**Are** you / we / they hungry?	Yes,	you / we / they	**are**.
			No,		**are not** / **aren't**.
He / She / It **is** / **'s** hungry.	He / She / It **is not** / **isn't** hungry.	**Is** he / she / it hungry?	Yes,	he / she / it	**is**.
			No,		**is not** / **isn't**.

Present continuous tense

Expressions of time that indicate the present continuous tense:
now, at present, at the / this moment, currently, 'Look!'

Positive statement	Negative statement	Question	Short answer		
I **am** / **'m talking** too much.	I **am not** / **'m not talking** too much.	**Am** I **talking** too much?	Yes,	I	**am**.
			No,		**am not** / **'m not**.
You / We / They **are** / **'re talking** too much.	You / We / They **are not** / **aren't talking** too much.	**Are** you / we / **talking** too much?	Yes,	you / we / they	**are**.
			No,		**are not** / **aren't**.
He / She / It **is** / **'s talking** too much.	He / She / It **is not** / **isn't talking** too much.	**Is** he / she / it **talking** too much?	Yes,	he / she / it	**is**.
			No,		**is not** / **isn't**.

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
mistake	mistook	mistaken
misunderstand	misunderstood	misunderstood
oversleep	overslept	overslept
pay	paid	paid
prove	proved	proved, proven
put	put	put
quit	quit, quitted	quit, quitted
read	read	read
rewind	rewound	rewound
rewrite	rewrote	rewritten
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew	sewed	sewn, sewed
shake	shook	shaken
shine	shone	shone
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown, showed
shrink	shrank	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
smell	smelt, smelled	smelt, smelled
speak	spoke	spoken
spell	spelt, spelled	spelt, spelled
spend	spent	spent
spill	spilt, spilled	spilt, spilled
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang, sprung	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
strike	struck	struck
sweep	swept	swept
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
understand	understood	understood
undo	undid	undone
upset	upset	upset
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written

Exercise 5 (Units 19-23)

Part A

Charlotte has written an advertisement about a new amusing park, but she made some mistakes. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct prepositions in the spaces provided.

Studio Kokubo Park Now Open

Studio Kokubo Park has opened officially (1) at 2nd June 2020. Situated (2) on Tokyo, the park is based on the popular animated films of Masayama Sato, who was active from 1973 (3) during 2018.

Youth Hill

(4) In the entrance of the park is Youth Hill. It features the scenes of the film *Palace in the Sky*, released (5) on 1990. You can buy souvenirs at the gift shops (6) above the hill. You can also have a relaxing stay (7) on Tata Hotel there.

Whisper Valley

The eastern area is Whisper Valley, which takes you back to the rural landscape of the film *Life in the Wild*. There is an exhibition room (8) in the valley floor. You can go (9) in front of the scenes to see how Sato's films are made.

Floating Forest

The western area is Floating Forest, where you can enjoy the green of the countryside and have tea in a stylish café in sunlight (10) at the day.

Studio Kokubo Park is where magic and nature meet. Join us for an unforgettable experience. Tickets (from HK $100 to $280 per person) are now available online (www.studiokokubo.com) and at the information kiosk (11) in the right of the park entrance.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

Part A (8 marks)

Match the phrases in Column B with those in Column A to form complete sentences. Write the correct letters in the spaces provided. Each letter can be used ONCE only.

Column A	Answer	Column B
1. It is snowing heavily. The train		**A.** bought a new car.
2. Your school is far. Do you		**B.** am doing homework.
3. Every Tuesday, Judy		**C.** will prepare their own lunches tomorrow.
4. We drew some paintings and		**D.** go there by bus or by tram?
5. My sister is watching TV while I		**E.** is going to be late.
6. Last week, Dad		**F.** baking a cake?
7. My friends love cooking. They		**G.** plays badminton in the sports centre.
8. It smells good. Are you		**H.** showed them to our teachers.

Part B (11 marks)

Jasmine is writing a diary entry. Complete the diary entry with the correct pronouns, possessive adjectives or *wh*-words with the correct form of the verbs in the brackets.

24 August 20XX Cloudy

I can't believe that I interviewed **(1)** _____ favourite writer today!

Mr Albert Chan was the guest speaker of our school talk this afternoon. In the talk, he shared with us **(2)** _____ writing journey. He became interested in reading since **(3)** _____ was small. **(4)** _____ is what made his writing skills solid. Plenty of writers have influenced his writing. He has learnt a lot of things from **(5)** _____. 'I hope that one day my writing is as good as **(6)** _____,' he once said.

After the talk, Anna and I interviewed Mr Chan for **(7)** _____ school paper. '**(8)** _____ (do) you first realise that you wanted to be a writer?' Anna asked. 'When