Course: Present Simple Continuous

Lesson 1: When to use it?

1. We use the present continuous tense to talk about something that is in progress at the time of speaking, for things happening now, at the moment. (A1)

Are you working now? It is raining outside.

2. We use the present continuous for temporary situations. (A2)

I usually walk to work but I am going by bus today because it is raining. I live in Prague but this term I am staying in London.

3. We use the present continuous to express the future, especially to talk about something we have already arranged or planned in the future. (B1)

He is taking an exam on Monday. We are visiting our friends in Germany next weekend.

4. We use the present continuous for changing and developing situations. (B1)

More and more people are riding bicycles. You are getting better at playing the guitar.

5. We use the present continuous to describe irritating habits or anger. (B2) We often use this form with adverbs such as *always*, *constantly*, *continuously*. *My sister is always borrowing my clothes without asking*. *Your dog is constantly destroying our garden*.

6. We use the present continuous in stories and jokes in informal spoken English and in live commentaries. (C1)

A man is riding a bicycle when meeting a cow riding a bicycle, too.....

⇒ Words and phrases often used with present continuous: *now, right now, at the moment, at present, today, this week, currently, etc.*