



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate

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## **A Busy Morning in the Office by K S Sandhu**

Sarah is sitting in her car right now. She is driving to work along the busy road in Manchester. The traffic is moving very slowly this morning because it is raining a little. Sarah is listening to her favourite Punjabi music on the radio while she is waiting at the red traffic lights. The singer is singing about love and family, and Sarah is smiling.

She looks at the clock on the dashboard. It is 8:40. "I hope I'm not late for the meeting," she thinks. Her phone is ringing. It is her friend and colleague, Raj. Raj is calling from the office.

"Hello, Sarah? Where are you?" Raj asks.

"I'm driving right now," Sarah replies. "The traffic is really bad today because of the rain."

"Okay, hurry up! The boss is waiting. He is preparing all the papers for the 9 o'clock meeting.

"Sarah laughs quietly. She is enjoying her new job a lot, even though it is sometimes difficult. The company is changing this year. They are starting new projects and introducing new technology. Some workers are feeling worried about the changes, but Sarah is feeling excited. She thinks the company is improving and growing fast.

Suddenly, the rain stops. The sky is becoming brighter, and the sun is coming out. Sarah is feeling happier now. The traffic is starting to move faster. She is getting closer to the office car park

.At the same time, in the office, Amrita is sitting at her desk. She is typing a report on her computer. She looks out of the window and sees the sun. "It isn't raining anymore," she says happily. Amrita is planning to go for lunch with Sarah later. They are both missing Punjabi food, so they are thinking about eating at the new restaurant near the office.

In the kitchen, Mark is making coffee. He is talking to Priya.

"What's happening with the sales this month?" Mark asks.

"They are increasing," Priya answers. "The numbers are getting better every week.

"Sarah arrives at the car park. She is parking her car carefully. She takes her bag, her coat, and her umbrella (just in case it starts raining again). She is walking quickly towards the building. She is feeling ready for a busy day.

Inside the office, everyone is working hard. Phones are ringing, printers are printing, and people are talking in meetings. The atmosphere is changing – it is becoming more positive because the company is doing well this year.

Sarah opens the door to the meeting room. Her colleagues are sitting around the table. The boss is standing at the front with a big smile.

"Good morning, Sarah," he says. "You're just in time. We are starting the meeting now.

"Sarah sits down and opens her notebook. She is listening carefully. Today is a busy day, but she is enjoying every moment. Her life is getting better, her job is improving, and she is happy to be part of this team that is growing stronger every day.

# Unit 1

## Present continuous (I am doing)

**A** Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.  
She's **driving** to work. (= She **is driving** ...)

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.  
The action is not finished.

**am/is/are + -ing** is the *present continuous*:

I	<b>am</b>	(= I'm)	<b>driving</b>
he/she/it	<b>is</b>	(= he's etc.)	<b>working</b>
we/you/they	<b>are</b>	(= we're etc.)	<b>doing</b> etc.



**B** **I am doing** something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He's **having** a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? **Are you enjoying** it?
- What's all that noise? What's **going** on? *or* What's **happening**?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm reading a really good book at the moment.  
It's about a man who ...

Steve says '**I'm reading** ...' but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking.

He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.  
(but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

**C** You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're **working** hard **today**. (*not* You work hard today)
- B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

**D** We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

**getting, becoming**                      **changing, improving**  
**starting, beginning**                    **increasing, rising, falling, growing**

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **starting** to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)



# Answers

## UNIT 1

### 1.1

- 2 He's tying / He is tying
- 3 They're crossing / They are crossing
- 4 He's scratching / He is scratching
- 5 She's hiding / She is hiding
- 6 They're waving / They are waving

### 1.2

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 2 e | 6 h |
| 3 g | 7 b |
| 4 a | 8 c |
| 5 d |     |

### 1.3

- 2 Why are you crying?
- 3 Is she working today?
- 4 What are you doing these days?
- 5 What is she studying? / What's she studying?
- 6 What are they doing?
- 7 Are you enjoying it?
- 8 Why are you walking so fast?

### 1.4

- 3 I'm not listening / I am not listening
- 4 She's having / She is having
- 5 He's learning / He is learning
- 6 they aren't speaking / they're not speaking / they are not speaking
- 7 it's getting / it is getting
- 8 isn't working / 's not working / is not working
- 9 I'm looking / I am looking
- 10 It's working / It is working
- 11 They're building / They are building
- 12 He's not enjoying / He is not enjoying
- 13 The weather's changing / The weather is changing
- 14 He's starting / He is starting