



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate Grammar

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## A Happy Day for Reeta by K S Sandhu

Reeta lives in a small flat near the city centre. She is twenty-two years old and studies English at university. Every day she wakes up at seven o'clock. Right now she is making breakfast in the kitchen. The coffee smells wonderful and the toast tastes fresh.

Reeta likes mornings because everything feels quiet and peaceful. She prefers tea to coffee, but today she wants coffee. She needs energy for her classes.

After breakfast Reeta gets ready. She is wearing jeans and a green sweater. She looks in the mirror and smiles. "Today is a good day," she thinks.

She walks to university. On the way she sees many people. Some are running to work, others are waiting for the bus. A dog is barking at a cat. Reeta laughs quietly.

At university her best friend Mona is waiting outside the classroom. "Hi Reeta!" Mona says. "You look happy today."

"I am happy," Reeta answers. "I understand the grammar better now."

They go inside. The teacher Mr Brown is writing on the board. He is explaining present continuous. "We use present continuous when something is happening right now," he says.

Reeta listens carefully. She knows most of the rules, but sometimes she makes mistakes.

After the lesson the girls go to the cafeteria. They are sitting at a table near the window. Mona is eating a sandwich and Reeta is drinking orange juice.

"I want to travel next summer," Reeta says. "I need to save money."

Mona nods. "Me too. I prefer Spain, but my parents want Italy."

They talk about their plans. Reeta realises she is lucky to have a good friend like Mona.

In the afternoon Reeta has another class. This time it is literature. The teacher is reading a short story. The students are listening. Some are taking notes, others are just looking at the book.

Reeta likes stories. She believes stories help people understand life. She remembers one story about a boy who wants to be a musician. It makes her feel happy.

After university Reeta goes home. She is tired but content. On the bus she sees an old man. He is carrying a big bag. Reeta offers her seat. The man smiles and says thank you.

When Reeta arrives home, her cat Milo is waiting at the door. He is meowing loudly. "Are you hungry, Milo?" she asks. Milo rubs against her legs.

Reeta feeds the cat and then sits on the sofa. She is thinking about her day. She feels good. She knows she is learning, she has friends, and she has dreams.

Outside it is getting dark. The street lights are turning on. People are coming home from work. Cars are moving slowly in the traffic.

Reeta opens her notebook. She wants to write something. She starts writing: "Today I learn new things. I speak English with my friends. I feel happy because life is nice."

She closes the notebook and smiles. Tomorrow is another day. She is ready for it.

Unit  
4

## Present continuous and present simple 2 (I am doing and I do)

**A** We use continuous forms (**I'm waiting**, **it's raining** etc.) for actions and happenings that have started but not finished.

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in this way. We don't say 'I am knowing', 'they are liking'. We say 'I **know**', 'they **like**'.

The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous:

like	want	need	prefer	
know	realise	understand	recognise	
believe	suppose	remember	mean	
belong	fit	contain	consist	seem

- I'm hungry. I **want** something to eat. (*not* I'm wanting)
- Do** you **understand** what I **mean**?
- Anna **doesn't seem** very happy right now.

**B think**

When **think** means 'believe' or 'have an opinion', we do not use the continuous:

- I **think** Mary is Canadian, but I'm not sure. (*not* I'm thinking)
- What **do** you **think** of my idea? (= what is your opinion?)

When **think** means 'consider', the continuous is possible:

- I **'m thinking** about what happened. I often **think** about it.
- Nicky **is thinking** of giving up her job. (= she is considering it)

**C see hear smell taste look feel**

We normally use the present simple (not continuous) with **see/hear/smell/taste**:

- Do** you **see** that man over there? (*not* are you seeing)
- The room **smells**. Let's open a window.
- This soup **doesn't taste** very good.

You can use the present simple or continuous to say how somebody **looks** or **feels** now:

- You **look** well today. *or* You **'re looking** well today.
- How **do** you **feel** now? *or* How **are** you **feeling** now?

*but*

- I usually **feel** tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

**D am/is/are being**

You can say **he's being** ..., **you're being** ... etc. to say how somebody is behaving *now*:

- I can't understand why he **'s being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.  
(**being** selfish = behaving selfishly now)
- 'The path is icy. Don't slip.' 'Don't worry. I **'m being** very careful.'

Compare:

- He never thinks about other people. He **'s** very selfish.  
(= he is selfish generally, not only now)
- I don't like to take risks. I **'m** a very careful person.

We use **am/is/are being** to say how a person is *behaving* (= doing something they can control) now.

It is not usually possible in other situations:

- Sam **is** ill. (*not* is being ill)
- Are** you tired? (*not* are you being tired)

## Exercises

### 4.1 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- Are you hungry? Do you want (you / want) something to eat?
- Alan says he's 90 years old, but nobody..... (believe) him.
- She told me her name, but..... (I / not / remember) it now.
- Don't put the dictionary away. .... (I / use) it.
- Don't put the dictionary away. .... (I / need) it.
- Air..... (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen.
- Who is that man? What..... (he / want)?
- Who is that man? Why..... (he / look) at us?
- Who is that man? ..... (you / recognise) him?
- ..... (I / think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it?
- I can't make up my mind. What..... (you / think) I should do?
- Gary wasn't well earlier, but..... (he / seem) OK now.

### 4.2 Use the words in brackets to make sentences.

<p>1</p>  <p>(you / not / seem / very happy today) You <u>don't seem</u> very happy today.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Are you OK? You look worried. (I / think) .....</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>(who / this umbrella / belong to?) ..... I've no idea.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>(this / smell / good) .....</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Excuse me. (anybody / sit / there?) ..... No, it's free.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>(these gloves / not / fit / me) ..... They're too small.</p>

### 4.3 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Nicky is thinking of giving up her job. OK
- It's not true. I'm not believing it. I don't believe it.
- I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat? .....
- I've never eaten that fruit. What is it tasting like? .....
- I'm not sure what she does. I think she works in a shop. .....
- Look over there. What are you seeing? .....
- You're very quiet. What are you thinking about? .....

### 4.4 Complete the sentences. Use is/are being (continuous) or is/are (simple).

- I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
- You'll like Sophie when you meet her. She..... very nice.
- Sarah..... very nice to me at the moment. I wonder why.
- They..... very happy. They've just got married.
- You're normally very patient, so why..... so unreasonable about waiting ten more minutes?
- Would you like something to eat? ..... hungry?

## Answers

### UNIT 4

#### 4.1

- 2 believes
- 3 I don't remember / I do not remember *or* I can't remember
- 4 I'm using / I am using
- 5 I need
- 6 consists
- 7 does he want
- 8 is he looking
- 9 Do you recognise
- 10 I'm thinking / I am thinking
- 11 do you think
- 12 he seems

#### 4.2

- 2 I'm thinking.
- 3 Who does this umbrella belong to?
- 4 This smells good.
- 5 Is anybody sitting there?
- 6 These gloves don't fit me.

#### 4.3

- 3 *OK (I feel is also correct)*
- 4 does it taste
- 5 *OK*
- 6 do you see
- 7 *OK*

#### 4.4

- 2 's / is
- 3 's being / is being
- 4 're / are
- 5 are you being
- 6 Are you