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Basics: Present Continuous

Easy | A1 | Elementary | Beginners | Present tense | Progressive tense | Verb | Questions | Negation | English Grammar Basics

1. Help Commander Zorg finish his observation report about human behavior by choosing the correct word for each blank.

The humans _____ at tiny glowing rectangles. I _____ them very closely, but they don't seem to notice me hovering outside their window.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** are staring
- **B)** is staring
- **C)** am staring

Blank 2

- **A)** am watching
- **B)** is watching
- **C)** are watching

2. Complete the dramatic weather reporter's live broadcast.

The wind _____ stronger by the minute here in downtown! Look at the sky: even the local pigeons _____ backwards to escape the storm!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is getting
- **B)** gets
- **C)** are getting

Blank 2

- **A)** are flying
- **B)** is flying
- **C)** fly

3. Complete the wildlife documentary script by dropping the correct present continuous verbs into the narrator's notes.

Look closely at the riverbank. The crocodiles _____ in the sun, while a brave little bird _____ their teeth.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** are sleeping
- **B)** is sleeping
- **C)** am sleeping

Blank 2

- **A)** is cleaning
- **B)** are cleaning
- **C)** am cleaning

4. Complete the traveler's postcard home.

My apartment is flooded, so I _____ with my sister this week. Her terrifying cat _____ my every move right now!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** am staying
- **B)** stay
- **C)** is staying

Blank 2

- **A)** is watching
- **B)** watches
- **C)** are watching

5. Help the college freshman update her parents on her temporary living situation. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use the present continuous to describe temporary actions happening around now. Select all that apply.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I am sleeping on an air mattress until my bed arrives.
- **B)** My roommate is currently learning how to cook edible pasta.
- **C)** I sleep on an air mattress until my bed arrives.
- **D)** My roommate learns how to cook right now.

6. Choose the best words to complete the party planner's email.

Everything is set for the weekend! We _____ the caterer tomorrow at noon. After that, Sarah _____ up the giant disco ball.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** are meeting
- **B)** meet
- **C)** am meeting

Blank 2

- **A)** is picking
- **B)** picks
- **C)** are picking

7. Help the mad scientist log observations of a glowing green potion. Select ALL the statements that correctly use the present continuous to describe a changing or developing situation. Select all that apply.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The glowing liquid is getting brighter by the minute.
- **B)** The bubbles are becoming larger and more unstable.
- **C)** The potion is turn purple very quickly.
- **D)** The temperature is rise at an alarming rate.

8. Help the student finish their text message.

I can't talk right now! The professor _____ the history of the potato, and my best friend _____ soundly next to me.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is explaining
- **B)** explains
- **C)** are explaining

Blank 2

- **A)** is sleeping
- **B)** sleeps
- **C)** am sleeping

9. Help the backpacker update their travel blog with the correct verb form.

Usually, I live in a spacious apartment in London, but this month I ___ in a tiny campervan in New Zealand.

Select one.

- **A)** am sleeping
- **B)** sleep
- **C)** sleeping
- **D)** is sleeping

10. Choose the grammatically correct phrase to complete the nosy neighbor's phone call.

Look out your window! Why ___ a giant inflatable dinosaur down the street?

Select one.

- **A)** Dave is chasing
- **B)** does Dave chase
- **C)** is Dave chasing
- **D)** chasing Dave is

11. Select the correct phrase to finish the aspiring chef's social media post.

After three weeks of setting off the fire alarm, my cooking skills ___ finally ___!

Select one.

- **A)** is ... improving
- **B)** do ... improve
- **C)** are ... improving
- **D)** have ... improve

12. Read the frantic text messages from a party host whose night is getting out of hand! Select ALL the sentences that use the correct spelling and form of the present continuous. Select all that apply.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The dog is running around with a slice of pizza!
- **B)** Someone is hiding in the downstairs bathroom!
- **C)** The music is stoping, but people are still dancing.
- **D)** Kevin is makeing a huge mess in the kitchen.

13. You are narrating a dramatic nature documentary about a very lazy housecat. Select ALL the sentences that correctly describe what the cat is doing right now using the present continuous. Select all that apply.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The majestic beast is ignoring the expensive toy completely.
- **B)** He is staring at a blank wall with intense concentration.
- **C)** The cat are sleeping on my freshly ironed laundry.
- **D)** He is meow loudly for no apparent reason.

14. Help Sam complete her frantic text message to her best friend by choosing the correct verb for each blank.

Right now, I _____ to study for my chemistry final, but my roommate _____ the bagpipes in the living room!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** am trying
- **B)** is trying
- **C)** are trying

Blank 2

- **A)** is practicing
- **B)** am practicing
- **C)** are practicing

15. Complete the frustrated student's text message to their best friend.

I can't hear myself think! My roommate ___ the tuba right now.

Select one.

- **A)** plays
- **B)** is playing
- **C)** playing
- **D)** are playing