

English Grammar in Use

A self-study reference and practice book
for intermediate students

WITH ANSWERS

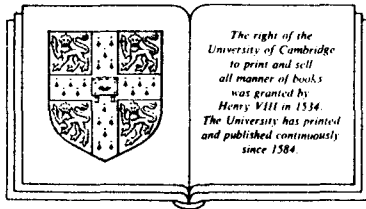
Raymond Murphy

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I would like to thank all the students and teachers who have used the material which makes up this book. In particular I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues at the Swan School of English, Oxford, for their interest and encouragement.

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Introduction – to the student

English Grammar in Use is a book for students of English who want to study and practise using the grammar of the language. The book will be helpful to you if you are not sure of the answers to questions like these:

- What is the difference between 'I did' and 'I have done'?
- When do we use 'will' for the future?
- What is the structure after 'wish'?
- When do we say 'used to do' and when do we say 'used to doing'?
- When do we use 'the'?
- What is the difference between 'like' and 'as'?

These and many other points are explained in this book.

Level

The book is intended mainly for intermediate students (students who have already studied the basic structures of English). It concentrates on those structures which intermediate students want to use but which often cause difficulty. More advanced students who make grammatical mistakes will also find the book useful.

The book is *not* suitable for elementary students.

How the book is organised

There are 130 units in the book. Each unit concentrates on a particular point of grammar. Some problems (for example, the present perfect or the use of articles) are covered in more than one unit. In each unit there are explanations and examples (left-hand page) and exercises (right-hand page), except for Unit 117, which is a double unit. At the back of the book there is a *Key* for you to check your answers to the exercises.

At the beginning of the book there is a list of the units (*Contents*) and there is a detailed *Index* of structures and words at the end.

There are also five *Appendices* at the end of the book (List of present and past tenses, Regular and irregular verbs, Spelling, Short forms and American English).

How to use the book

It is *not* intended that you work through the book from beginning to end. Every learner has different problems and you should use this book according to your own needs.

It is suggested that you work in this way:

- use the contents and/or index to find which unit deals with the point you are interested in;
- study the explanations and examples carefully;
- do the exercises (study the instructions and examples at the beginning of each exercise so that you know what you have to do);
- check your answers with the key;
- if your answers are not correct, study the explanation and examples again to see what went wrong.

You can of course use the book simply as a reference book without doing the exercises.

The words used in the explanations are as simple as possible but sometimes a few more 'difficult' words are used. If you do not understand a word, look it up in a dictionary.

UNIT 1 Present continuous (I am doing)

a) Study this example situation:



Ann is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She is driving to work.

This means: she is driving now, at the time of speaking.

This is the *present continuous* tense:

I am (= I'm)	} driving
he/she/(it) is (= he's etc.)	
we/they/you are (= we're etc.)	

We use the present continuous when we talk about something which is happening at the time of speaking:

- Please don't make so much noise. I'm studying. (*not* 'I study')
- 'Where is Margaret?' 'She's having a bath.' (*not* 'she has')
- Let's go out now. It isn't raining any more.
- (*at a party*) Hello, Ann. Are you enjoying the party? (*not* 'do you enjoy')

b) We also use the present continuous when we talk about something which is happening around the time of speaking, but not necessarily exactly at the time of speaking. Study this example situation:

- Tom and Ann are talking and drinking in a cafe. Tom says: 'I'm reading an interesting book at the moment. I'll lend it to you when I've finished it.'

Tom is not reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has begun the book and hasn't finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it. Here are some more examples:

- Silvia is learning English at the moment. (*not* 'learns')
- Have you heard about Tom? He is building his own house. (*not* 'builds')

But perhaps Silvia and Tom are not doing these things exactly at the time of speaking.

c) We often use the present continuous when we talk about a period around the present. For example: today, these days, this season etc.:

- 'You're working hard today.' 'Yes, I have a lot to do.'
- These days more and more people are learning foreign languages.
- Tom isn't playing football this season. He wants to concentrate on his studies.

d) We use the present continuous when we talk about changing situations:

- The population of the world is rising very fast. (*not* 'rises')
- Is your English getting better? (*not* 'does ... get')

UNIT 1 Exercises

1.1 In this exercise you have to put the verb into the correct form.

Examples: Please don't make so much noise. I am studying (study).

Let's go out now. It isn't raining (not/rain) any more.

Listen to those people. What language are they speaking (they/speak) ?

- 1 Please be quiet. I (try) to concentrate.
- 2 Look! It (snow).
- 3 Why (you/look) at me like that? Have I said something wrong?
- 4 You (make) a lot of noise. Can you be a bit quieter?
- 5 Excuse me, I (look) for a phone box. Is there one near here?
- 6 (in the cinema) It's a good film, isn't it? (you/enjoy) it?
- 7 Listen! Can you hear those people next door? They (shout) at each other again.
- 8 Why (you/wear) your coat today? It's very warm.
- 9 I (not/work) this week. I'm on holiday.
- 10 I want to lose weight. I (not/eat) anything today.

1.2 Complete these sentences using one of these verbs:

get become change rise improve fall increase

You don't have to use all the verbs and you can use some of them more than once.

Example: The population of the world is rising very fast.

- 1 The number of people without jobs at the moment.
- 2 He is still ill but he better slowly.
- 3 These days food more and more expensive.
- 4 The world Things never stay the same.
- 5 The cost of living Every year things are dearer.
- 6 George has gone to work in Spain. When he arrived, his Spanish wasn't very good but now it
- 7 The economic situation is already very bad and it worse.

1.3 Read this conversation between Brian and Steve. Put each verb into the correct form. The first one has already been done for you.

Brian and Steve meet in a restaurant:

Brian: Hello, Steve. I haven't seen you for ages. What (1) are you doing (you/do) these days?

Steve: I (2) (train) to be a shop manager.

Brian: Really? (3) (you/enjoy) it?

Steve: Yes, it's quite interesting. How about you?

Brian: Well, I (4) (not/work) at the moment, but I'm very busy.

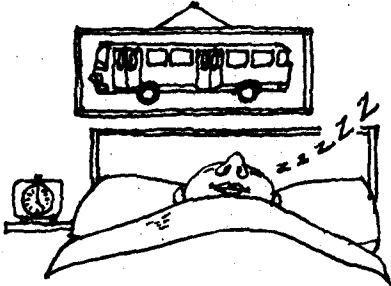
I (5) (build) a house.

Steve: Really? (6) (you/do) it alone?

Brian: No, some friends of mine (7) (help) me.

UNIT 2 Present simple (I do)

a) Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver. But now he is asleep in bed.
 So:
 He is *not* driving a bus (he is asleep).
 But: He drives a bus.
 This is the *present simple* tense:
 I/we/you/they drive
 he/she/(it) drives

We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We are not thinking only about the present. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general. It is not important whether the action is happening at the time of speaking:

- The earth goes round the sun.
- Nurses look after patients in hospitals.
- In Britain most of the shops close at 5.30 p.m.

Remember that we say *he/she/it -s*. Don't forget the s:

- I work in a bank. Barry works in a shop.

b) We use *do/does* to make questions and negative sentences:

do I/we/you/they } work? does he/she/it }	I/we/you/they don't } work he/she/it doesn't }
----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

- Excuse me, do you speak English?
- 'Would you like a cigarette?' 'No, thanks. I don't smoke.'
- What does this word mean? (*not* 'What means this word?')
- Rice doesn't grow in Britain.

For questions see also Unit 49.

c) We use the present simple when we say how often we do things:

- I get up at 8 o'clock every morning. (*not* 'am getting')
- How often do you go to the dentist?
- Ann doesn't often drink beer.
- In summer Tom usually plays tennis twice a week.

d) Note that we say 'Where do you come from?' (= Where are you from?):

- Where do you come from? (*not* 'Where are you coming from?')
- He comes from Japan. (*not* 'He is coming from Japan.')

e) When you make a *suggestion*, you can say *Why don't you ...?*:

- 'I'm tired.' 'Why don't you go to bed early?'

UNIT 2 Exercises

2.1 In this exercise you have to put the verb into the correct form.

Examples: Water boils (boil) at 100 degrees centigrade.
George doesn't go (not/go) to the cinema very often.
How many languages do you speak (you/speak)?

- 1 The swimming bath (open) at 9.00 and (close) at 18.30 every day.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) in Britain?
- 3 I have a car but I (not/use) it very often.
- 4 How many cigarettes (you/smoke) a day?
- 5 'What (you/do)?' 'I'm an electrical engineer.'
- 6 'Where (your father / come) from?' 'He (come) from Scotland.'
- 7 If you need money, why (you/not/get) a job?
- 8 I (play) the piano, but I (not/play) very well.
- 9 I don't understand the word 'deceive'. What ('deceive' / mean)?

2.2 This time you have to read some sentences and correct them. The English is correct but the information is wrong. Write two correct sentences each time.

Example: The sun goes round the earth. The sun doesn't go round the earth.
The earth goes round the sun.

- 1 The sun rises in the west.
- 2 Mice catch cats.
- 3 Carpenters make things from metal.
- 4 The River Amazon flows into the Pacific Ocean.

2.3 Now you have to use these sentences to make questions. Begin your question with the word(s) in brackets.

Examples: Tom plays tennis. (How often?) How often does Tom play tennis?
I get up in the morning. (What time / usually?) What time do you usually get up?

- 1 Ann watches television. (How often?) How often
- 2 I write to my parents. (How often?)
- 3 I have dinner in the evening? (What time / usually?)
- 4 Tom works. (Where?)
- 5 I go to the cinema. (How often?)
- 6 People do stupid things. (Why?)
- 7 The car breaks down. (How often?)

UNIT 3

Present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do)?

Before you study this unit, study Units 1 and 2.

a) Study this explanation and compare the examples:

<p>Present continuous (I am doing) Use the present continuous to talk about something which is happening at or around the time of speaking:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>The kettle is boiling. Can you turn it off, please? Listen to those people. What language are they speaking? 'Where's Tom?' 'He's playing tennis.' (<i>you find a stranger in your room</i>) What are you doing here? Silvia is in Britain for three months. She's learning English.</p> <p>Use the present continuous for a <i>temporary</i> situation: I'm living with some friends until I can find a flat. That machine isn't working. It broke down this morning.</p>	<p>Present simple (I do) Use the present simple to talk about things in general or things which happen repeatedly:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Water boils at 100 degrees centigrade. Excuse me, do you speak English? *</p> <p>Tom plays tennis every Saturday. What do you usually do at weekends? What do you do? (= What's your job?) Most people learn to swim when they are children.</p> <p>Use the present simple for a <i>permanent</i> situation: My parents live in London. They have been there for 20 years. That machine doesn't work. It hasn't worked for years.</p>
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b) Some verbs are used only in *simple* tenses. For example, you cannot say 'I am knowing'. You can only say **I know**. Here is a list of verbs which are not normally used in *continuous* tenses (but there are exceptions):

want	like	belong	know	suppose	remember
need	love	see	realise	mean	forget
prefer	hate	hear	believe	understand	seem

have (when the meaning is 'possess' – see also Unit 24)

think (when the meaning is 'believe')

- Do you **like** London? (*not* 'are you liking')
 - He **doesn't understand**. (*not* 'he isn't understanding')
 - These shoes **belong** to me. (*not* 'are belonging')
 - What **do** you **think** Tom will do? (= What do you believe he will do?)
- but:* What **are** you **thinking** about? (= What is going on in your mind?)

UNIT 3 Exercises

3.1 In this exercise you have to decide whether the verbs in these sentences are right or wrong. Correct those which are wrong. The verb is underlined.

Examples: I don't know your telephone number.

Please don't make so much noise. I study.

RIGHT

WRONG - am studying.

- 1 Look! Somebody is climbing up that tree over there.
- 2 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about?
- 3 Are you believing in God?
- 4 Look! That man tries to open the door of your car.
- 5 The moon goes round the earth.
- 6 I'm thinking it would be a good idea to leave early.
- 7 The government is worried because the number of people without jobs is increasing.
- 8 I'm usually going to work by car.

3.2 Now you have to put the verb into the correct form, present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do).

Examples: Please don't make so much noise. I am studying (study).

How many languages does Tom speak (Tom/speak)?

This machine doesn't work (not/work). It hasn't worked for years.

- 1 I (not/belong) to a political party.
- 2 Hurry! The bus (come). I (not/want) to miss it.
- 3 The River Nile (flow) into the Mediterranean.
- 4 The river (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 5 (it/ever/snow) in India?
- 6 We usually (grow) vegetables in our garden but this year we (not/grow) any.
- 7 A: Can you drive?
B: No, but I (learn). My father (teach) me.
- 8 You can borrow my umbrella. I (not/need) it at the moment.
- 9 (at a party) I usually (enjoy) parties but I (not/enjoy) this one very much.
- 10 George says he's 80 years old but I (not/believe) him.
- 11 Ron is in London at the moment. He (stay) at the Hilton Hotel.
He usually (stay) at the Hilton Hotel when he's in London.

In these sentences think about whether the situation is temporary or permanent.

- 12 My parents (live) in Bristol. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where (your parents / live)?
- 13 She (stay) with her sister at the moment until she finds somewhere to live.
- 14 A: What (your father / do)?
B: He's a teacher, but he (not/work) at the moment.

UNIT 4 Present tenses (I am doing / I do) with a future meaning

a) Present continuous with a future meaning

Study this example situation:

SUN	THURS
MON TENNIS 2 PM	FRI DINNER with ANN 8 PM
TUES DENTIST 10.10	SAT
WED	

This is Tom's diary for next week.

He is playing tennis on Monday afternoon.
He is going to the dentist on Tuesday morning.
He is having dinner with Ann on Friday.

In all these examples, Tom has already decided and arranged to do these things.

When you are talking about what you have already arranged to do, use the present continuous (I am doing). Do not use the present simple (I do).

- A: What are you doing tomorrow evening? (not 'what do you do')
- B: I'm going to the theatre. (not 'I go')
- A: Are you playing football tomorrow?
- B: Yes, but Tom isn't playing. He has hurt his leg.
- A: Ann is coming tomorrow.
- B: Oh, is she? What time is she arriving?
- A: At 10.15.
- B: Are you meeting her at the station?
- A: I can't. I'm working tomorrow morning.

It is also possible to use going to (do) in these sentences:

- What are you going to do tomorrow evening?
- Tom is going to play tennis on Monday afternoon.

But the present continuous is usually more natural when you are talking about arrangements. See also Unit 5.

Do not use will to talk about what you have arranged to do:

- What are you doing this evening? (not 'what will you do')
- Alex is getting married next month. (not 'Alex will get')

b) Present simple with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we are talking about timetables, programmes etc. (for example, for public transport, cinemas):

- What time does the film begin?
- The train leaves Plymouth at 10.30 and arrives in London at 13.45.
- The football match starts at 8 o'clock.
- Tomorrow is Wednesday.

But we do not normally use the present simple for personal arrangements:

- What time are you meeting Ann? (not 'do you meet')

UNIT 4 Exercises

4.1 A friend of yours is planning to go on holiday very soon. You ask him about his plans. Use the words in brackets to make your questions.

Example: (where / go?) Where are you going?

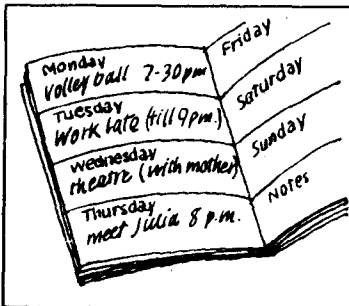
- 1 (how long / stay?) 4 (go / by car?)
 2 (when / leave?) 5 (where / stay?)
 3 (go / alone?)

4.2 Ann is going on holiday. You have to write sentences about her holiday plans. Use the words in brackets to write your sentences.

Example: (go / Scotland) She is going to Scotland.

- 1 (leave / next Friday) She
 2 (stay / in Scotland for two weeks)
 3 (go / with a friend of hers)
 4 (stay / in a hotel) They
 5 (go / by train)

4.3 Tom wants you to visit him but you are very busy. Look at your diary for the next few days and explain to him why you can't come.



Tom: Can you come on Monday evening?
 You: Sorry, I'd love to but I'm playing volleyball.
 Tom: What about Tuesday evening then?
 You: I can't I'm afraid. I (1).....
 Tom: Well, what are you doing on Wednesday evening?
 You: (2).....
 Tom: I see. Well, are you free on Thursday evening?
 You: I'm afraid not. (3).....

4.4 Put the verb into the most suitable form, present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do).

Examples: We are going (go) to the theatre this evening.
Does the film begin (the film / begin) at 3.30 or 4.30?

- 1 We (have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
 2 I (not/go) away for my holidays next month because I haven't got enough money. (you/go) away?
 3 The concert this evening (start) at 7.30.
 4 George, is it true that you (get) married next week?
 5 The art exhibition (open) on 3 May and (finish) on 15 July.
 6 What time (the next train / leave)?
 7 Ann, we (go) to the pub. (you/come) with us?