Present Continuous

The present continuous has these uses:

It is used to talk about something that is happening now.

*He is talking on the telephone.* (He is talking now.)
*He is sitting in a chair.*

It is also used to talk about something that is happening around now.

*Mary: Jane, how are you?*  
*Jane: Good. I'm very busy. I'm painting my apartment. How are you?*  
*Mary: O.K. I'm tired. I'm learning the guitar, but it's difficult.*

It is also used to talk about a future plan.

*My sister is having a party next week.*  
*I'm going to see my friend on Saturday.*

**Present Continuous Forms - Positive**

*I am watching television.*

*We are watching television.*

*You are watching television.*

*They are watching television.*

*He/she/it is watching television.*

**Present Continuous Forms - Negative**

*I am not watching television.*

*We are not watching television.*

*You are not watching television.*

*They are not watching television.*

*He/she/it is not watching television.*

**Present Continuous Forms - Question**

*Am I watching television?*

*Are we watching television?*

*Are you watching television?*

*Are they watching television?*

*Is he/she/it watching television?*

**Yes, I am / No, I'm not**

When we are talking, we often use the short forms (*Yes, I am / No, I'm not*) to answer questions.

*Are you reading this worksheet?*  
*Yes, I am.*

*Are you learning Portuguese?*  
*No, I'm not. I'm learning English.*

The forms are:

*Yes, I am. No, I'm not.*

*Yes, we are. / No, we aren't.*

*Yes, you are. / No, you aren't.*

*Yes, they are. / No, they aren't.*

*Yes, he/she/it is. / No, he/she/it isn't.*
Exercise 1: Look at the first picture. Complete these sentences with the verb in the brackets. Put each verb in the present continuous.

a. The bus ________ on a road. (travel)
   b. One man on the bus ________ a newspaper. (read)
   c. A woman ________ in her bag. (look)
   d. A man ________ on his mobile phone. (talk)
   e. The passengers ________ on the bus. (sit)

Exercise 2: Look at the second picture. Complete these sentences with the verb in the brackets. Put each verb in the present continuous.

a. The students ________ in a classroom. (sit)
   b. The teacher ________ to them. (talk)
   c. He ________ at the students. (look)
   d. He ________ them Math. (teach)
   e. The students ________ to the teacher. (listen)

Exercise 3: Look at the third picture. Answer the questions by completing each answer. Use the verb in brackets in your answer. Put the verb in the present continuous. One is done for you as an example.

   a. Is the woman watching television?
      No, she isn't watching television. She is working on a computer.

   b. Is the woman singing?
      No, she isn't singing. She is talking on the telephone.

   c. Is the woman wearing a T-shirt?
      No, she isn't wearing a T-shirt. She's wearing a shirt and a jacket.

   d. Is the woman holding a coffee cup?
      No, she isn't holding a coffee cup. She's holding the telephone.

   e. Is the woman standing?
      No, she isn't standing. She's sitting at her desk.

Exercise 4: Look at the last picture. Answer the questions about the picture. Use yes, he is / no, he isn't / etc. One is done for you as an example.

a. Is the man swimming?
   No, he isn't.

b. Is the man bungy jumping?

   c. Is the man running?

   d. Is the man wearing a suit?

   e. Is the man holding a suitcase?

   f. Are you wearing jeans?

   g. Are you holding a pen?

   h. Are you doing this worksheet?

   i. Are you standing?

Now answer these questions about yourself:

   j. Are you wearing jeans?

   k. Are you holding a pen?

   l. Are you doing this worksheet?

   m. Are you standing?

Answers: Exercise 1: a. is traveling (British English: is travelling) b. is reading, c. is looking, d. is talking, e. are sitting.

Exercise 2: a. are sitting, b. is talking, c. is looking, d. is teaching, e. are listening.

Exercise 3: b. No, she isn't singing. She is talking on the telephone. c. No, she isn't wearing a T-shirt. She's wearing a shirt and a jacket. d. No, she isn't holding a coffee cup. She's holding the telephone. e. No, she isn't standing. She's sitting at her desk.

Exercise 4: b. Yes, he is. c. No, he isn't. d. No, he isn't. e. No, he isn't. f. - i. Answers will vary.