**PRESENT CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE)**

is used to express:

1. **a momentary action in progress:**

* What **are you looking** for?
* What **are you doing**? – **I’m just tying** up my shoe-laces.
* He’s talking to his girlfriend on the phone.

2. **a present action** (in a broad sense) that is marked in one way or other (made topical,

emotional, etc.):

* **Are we eating** the right kind of food?

3. **temporary situations:**

* The river **is flowing** very fast after last night’s rain.
* People **are becoming** less tolerant of smoking these days.

4. **near future:**

* **He is moving** to London.
* **We are going** to Paris on Friday; we are leaving from London Airport.

5. **repeated actions:**

* **She’s always helping** people.
* **I’m always hearing** strange stories about him.

**Spelling of – ing forms**

The -ing form is a straightforward addition to the base:

sleep – **sleeping**, push – **pushing**

**Doubling of consonant**

Final base consonants are doubled before -ing when the preceding vowel is stressed and spelled with a single letter:

stop – **stopping**, permit –  **permitting**

There is no doubling when the vowel is unstressed or written with two letters:

enter – **entering**, develop – **developing**

**verbs ending in -p** have the regular spelling in both British English: develop – **developing**

**Treatment of –y** - In bases ending in -ie, the -ie is replaced by -y- before the -ing inflection:

die – **dying,** lie – **lying**

**Deletion of –e**

Final -e is regularly dropped before the -ing inflection:

shav**e** – **shaving**

Verbs with bases in -ee, -ye, -oe, and often -ge are exceptions to this rule in that they do not

drop the -e before -ing;

**-ee**: agree – **agreeing**

**-ye**: dye – **dyeing**

**-oe**: hoe – **hoeing**

**-ge**: singe –  **singeing**

**Present tenses in typical contexts**

**1. The Present Simple and Present Progressive in commentaries**:

In radio commentaries on **sport,** the **Simple Present** is used to describe **rapid actions**

completed at the moment of speaking and the **continuous** is used to describe **longer-lasting**

actions:

* Moore **passes** to Charlton. Charlton **makes** a quick pass to Booth. Booth is away with

the ball, but **he’s losing** his advantage.

**2. The Present Simple and Present Progressive in narration**

When we are telling a story or describing things that have happened to us, we often use

present tenses (even though the events are in the past) in order to sound **more interesting** and

**dramatic**. The progressive is used for the ‘background’ and the simple tense for the main

events:

* **I’m driving** along this country road and **I’m** completely lost. Then **I see** this old fellow.
* **He’s leaning** against a gate. **I stop** the car and ask him the way.

**3. The Present Simple in demonstrations and instructions (step-by-step instructions)**

* First (you) **boil** some water. Then (you) **warm** the teapot. Then (you) **add** three

teaspoons of tea. Next, (you) **pour** on boiling water ...

**4. The Present Simple in synopses (e.g. reviews of books, films, etc.)**

* Kate Fox’s novel is an historical romance set in London in the 1880’s. The action

**takes** place over a period of 30 years ...

**5. The Present Simple and Present Progressive in newspaper headlines and photographic**

The **Present Simple** is generally used to refer to **past** events:

* FREAK SNOW STOPS TRAFFIC

The **abbreviated progressive** refers to the **future**:

* CABINET MINISTER RESIGNING SOON

**Použitá literatura**

HOVORKOVÁ, Martina. *Přehledná anglická gramatika*. 2. vyd. Plzeň: Fraus, 2009, 180 s. ISBN 978-80-7238-855-4.

SOBOTÍKOVÁ, Martina. *Stručná anglická mluvnice*. 2. vyd. Dubicko: INFOA, 1997, 63 s. ISBN 80-858-3642-4.

SVOBODA, Aleš a Karel KUČERA. *English Parts of Speech*. Slezská univerzita v Opavě. Opava, 2003.

CUNNINGHAM, S. *Real Life Pre-Intermediate Workbook CZ*. 1. vyd. Longman, 2010. ISBN 9788376002545.