

**Steluța Istrățescu**

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**DO IT YOURSELF!**

**Workbook for all ages – Intermediate**

Colecția ENGLISH & AMERICAN STUDIES

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# FOREWORD

This book aims to serve the pupil as a class study book and not merely provide material for reference book. It was written as a self-study grammar book – the pupil can use it without the help of a teacher – but at the same time teachers may find it useful as additional course material in cases where further work on grammar is necessary.

The book is useful at middle and upper-intermediate levels, and can serve both as a basis for revision and as a means of practicing new structures. It concentrates on those structures which some students want to use but which often cause difficulty.

All material used is within the scope of the average pupil and has been arranged to suit convenient grouping. By the use of a great variety of exercises the student will acquire a wide general knowledge and increased command of the language. The bulk of the examples are taken from books, periodicals, etc. Many of the lists included in the book, will appeal to the discerning teacher at giving essential examples, as well as forming a solid basis of revision. In correct usage, the governing principles and suitable exercises should help considerably in guiding pupils into the proper forms of speech and writing.

There are 12 units in this book, each unit concentrating on a particular point of grammar, arranged in order of difficulty. Any explanation is followed by examples and exercises. At the back of each lesson there is a key for the pupil to check his answers to the exercises. There are also different lists of nouns, adjectives, etc. as well as a list with irregular verbs, idioms, prepositions, word-building, similes, etc. this so useful for the study of correct English.

I hope that the book will be found to justify its claim as a working book and prove useful for class-work and individual study at this particularly important stage.

I would like to thank all the students and teachers who use this workbook.

I am, of course, indebted to other writers of English grammar. Finally I wish to express my gratitude to my former teachers Leon Levițchi, Andrei Bantaș, Adrian Nicolescu for their invaluable help in preparing this book.

**Steluța Istrățescu**

## 1. THE INDICATIVE

### 1.1. PRESENT CONTINUOUS (I am doing)

Sub.	+	AM ARE IS	+	V1-ing	
AM ARE IS	+	Sub.	+	V1-ing?	
Sub.	+	AM ARE IS	+	NOT	+ V1-ing

This tense is used to express:

- actions in progress at the moment of speaking:  
*Pupils are singing a song now.* (at this very moment)
- temporary actions/situations, not necessarily in progress at the moment of speaking:  
*My son is studying French at a university in France.*  
*Father's car is broken, so he is walking to his office these days.*
- planned actions (+ future adverbial reference):  
*We are spending next summer in England.*
- repeated actions with adverbs like: *always, forever, whenever*:  
*Mother is always helping poor people.*  
*Whenever I meet him he is walking with another girl.*
- an annoying habit (a frequency adverb is necessary):  
*He is always teasing the girls.*
- with verbs describing change and development:  
*More and more people are spending their holiday at the seaside.*  
*The situation is getting better and better every day.*
- complaints about bad habits (adverbs: *always, constantly, continually, forever*):  
*People are forever complaining about noise.*

## 1.2. PRESENT SIMPLE (I do)

<b>Sub.</b>	+	<b>V1</b>	±	<b>s/es</b>
<b>DO/DOES</b>	+	<b>Sub.</b>	+	<b>V1?</b>
<b>Sub.</b>	+	<b>DON'T/DOESN'T</b>	+	<b>V1</b>

This tense is used to express:

- habitual or customary actions:
  - People usually travel by plane when they go abroad.*
  - Pupils go to school in autumn.*
  - Father works in a bank.*
  - What do you do? (what's your job?) I work in a supermarket.*
- future references (usually scheduled, of timetables):
  - What time does the concert begin? It begins at eight.*
  - Easter comes in spring.*
- timelessness (situations that are always true; or stage directions, recipes, summaries of the plots of stories, and for narration in the historical present):
  - It snows hard in winter.*
  - If it is too hot the ice melts.*
- actions taking place at the present moment (this is the situation at present):
  - Mother works in a hospital.*
  - My brother goes to University.*
- making declarations – verbs describing opinions and feelings tend to be state verbs:
  - She hopes to win the first prize.*
  - I bet you are he best.*
  - He recommends are us the best wines.*
- headlines (written in a “telegram style”, and references to the past are usually simplified to present simple):
  - Car crashes in a highway collision.*
  - Ship sinks in midnight collision.*
- instructions and itineraries, stage directions:
  - On the first day we visit the Tate Gallery.*
  - First you unscrew the cork.*
  - She opens the door, goes to the window and opens it wide. (stage directions)*
- facts that are always true:
  - Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.*
- summaries and events:
  - May 1945: The war in Europe comes to an end.*
- historical present in narratives and “funny stories”:
  - When the king asks who has a ring in his ear one of them says. . .*

I AM DOING			I DO		
past	now	future	past	now	future
	The water is boiling. Turn it off, please.		Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.		
	Listen to him! What language is he speaking?		What language do the Marocans speak?		
	We can't go out. It's raining too hard.		It rains hard in autumn.		
	I am busy. I am digging the garden.		I dig the garden every spring.		
	Sue is in England. She is learning English.		Sue learns this language at school.		

### SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Some verbs are not normally used in the continuous aspect, because they describe activities which already extend in time: *want, be, believe, understand, think, depend, have, hear, know, matter, suppose, prefer, taste, feel, smell, prefer, see, doubt, like, love, mean, own, wish, seem, contain, consist, belong, weigh, last, recommend, suggest.*

STATE	EVENT
Tom is a good boy.	He is being naughty now. (behaves)
Jack has a beautiful house.	He is having fun/a good time/breakfast/dinner/a shower/a bath/a walk/a lie down/a rest (now).
I think she is right.	I am thinking of my summer holiday.
I feel she is wrong.	I am feeling his pulse. (what? – direct object)
This cake tastes good.	She is tasting the soup. (what? – direct object)
He weighs too much.	He is weighing some apples. (what? – direct object)
My friends live in the country.	Now they are in France and are living in an elegant hotel by the sea.
Can you see that flower?	I am seeing you tonight. (I am paying you a visit.)
It depends what you mean.	He is depending on his parents now.

## EXERCISES

### 1. Choose the right form:

- Do you realize/are you realizing that he is a very intelligent boy?
- Mary is ill. I think/am thinking she has/is having flu.
- Grandmother thinks/is thinking of her beautiful youth.
- How much does this whale weigh/is this whale weighing?
- Don't worry. He is just/is just being a little naughty at the moment.
- Where do your grandparents live/are your grandparents living?
- My new job is rather difficult, but I survive/am surviving.
- Absolutely! I agree/am agreeing with you.
- Mother feels/is feeling when I tell/am telling a lie.
- The doctor feels/is feeling his patient's pulse.
- How long does this play last/is this play lasting? It lasts/is lasting about two hours.
- I don't like/am not liking the way she behaves/is behaving.

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