

Lesson Plan: Present continuous (negative form)

Level: Beginner (A1)

Time: 60 minutes

Objectives

Students will be able to **form and use negative sentences** in the present continuous to talk about actions **not happening now**.

Target Structure

Subject + am/is/are + not + verb-ing

- I'm not working.
- She isn't listening.
- They aren't watching TV.

Materials

- Whiteboard / markers
- Pictures of people doing activities
- Worksheet (gap-fill, sentence correction, short writing)

1. Warm-up (5–8 minutes)

Activity: "What's happening?"

- Show a picture of people doing different activities.
- Ask students:
What is he doing? → "He is reading."
• Then point to something **not happening**:
Is he sleeping?

Elicit: "**No, he isn't sleeping.**"

Purpose: Activate prior knowledge of affirmative present continuous.

2. Presentation (10–12 minutes)

Step 1: Review affirmative

Write on the board:

- She is talking.
- They are playing football.

Ask:

- What tense is this?
- When do we use it?

Step 2: Introduce negative form

Change the sentences:

- She **is not** talking.
- They **are not** playing football.

Highlight:

- **am / is / are + not + verb-ing**
- Contractions:
 - is not → **isn't**
 - are not → **aren't**
 - am not (no contraction)

3. Controlled Practice (10–12 minutes)

Activity 1: Sentence Transformation

Students change affirmative to negative:

1. He is working. → He **isn't working.**

2. We are studying English. → We **aren't studying English.**

Activity 2: Choose the correct form

- She ___ listening to music. (isn't / aren't)

Check answers together.

4. Semi-Controlled Practice (10 minutes)

Activity: Picture Description

- Show pictures again.
- Students make **negative sentences**:
 - "The man isn't cooking."
 - "The children aren't sleeping."

Encourage full sentences.

5. Freer Practice (12–15 minutes)

Activity: What's NOT happening now?

- Students work in pairs.
- They talk about the classroom or their life:

"I'm not using my phone."

"My friend isn't watching TV right now."

Optional game:

- One student says 3 sentences; partner guesses which one is false.

6. Error Correction & Feedback (5 minutes)

- Write common mistakes on the board:
 - ✗ She not is working.
 - ✓ She **isn't** working.

- Elicit corrections from students.

7. Wrap-up / Homework (3 minutes)

Quick Check

- Ask students to say one negative sentence about now.

Homework

- Write **5 sentences** about what people in your family **aren't doing** at the moment.

Common Problems to Watch For

- Forgetting "be" (✗ She not studying)
- Using wrong auxiliary (✗ She aren't working)
- Missing -ing