

Descriptive Writing

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Objective	Practicing present continuous tense
Time	12 + minutes (varies depending on student level and video length)
Level	Intermediate – Advanced
Materials	Present continuous tense worksheet, 2 videos (preferably 2-3 minutes in length each), and a video projection device (e.g. projector, TV)

Describing a Picture

Description: To warm students up to present continuous tense, have them do a simple and short descriptive writing exercise. Tell students they have about 5 minutes to write 5 sentences describing what people are doing in a picture using present continuous tense.

Here is an example picture:



Encourage students to keep their sentences simple like this:

A boy is crying.

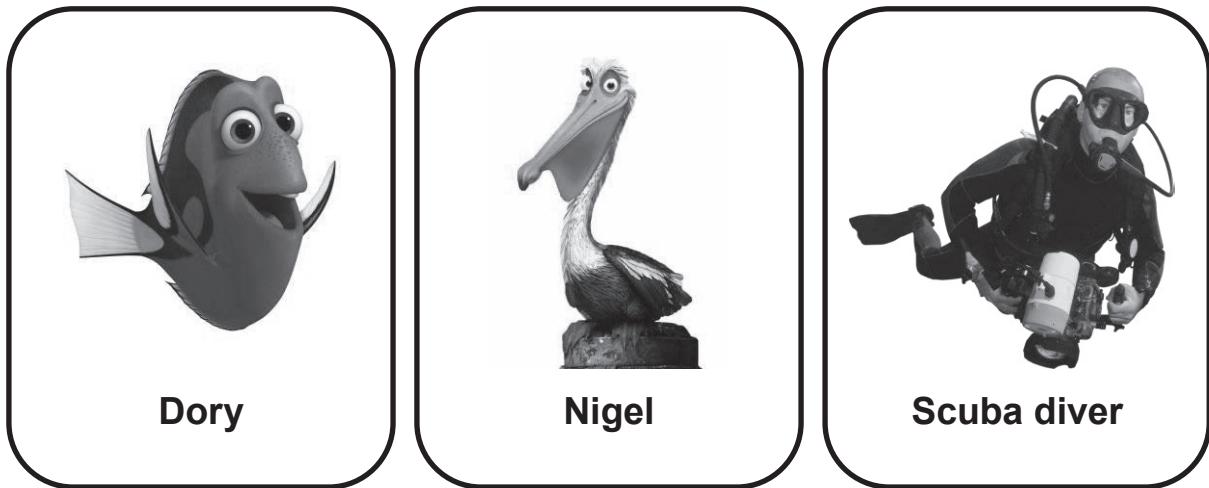
A man is swimming.

A person is riding a jet ski.

Google image is your best resource here because you can search for pictures that best suit your students' level. For lower level students, search for pictures that allow them to use simple verbs like *play*, *read*, or *eat*.

Describing a Video

Description: Before showing video #1, introduce any new vocabulary. For example, when showing 2 short clips from *Finding Nemo*, use picture cards (printed on A3 paper) to introduce the characters like Dory, Nigel, and the scuba diver. Here are examples:



Once the students have been introduced to the new words, leave the picture cards up on the board. Next, get students into pairs. Arrange their seat so that student #1 is facing the screen while student #2 is looking away from it. Using present continuous tense, student #1 describes what is happening on the screen to student #2. Student #2 listens to what student #1 is saying and writes it down word-for word. When video #1 ends, have students switch roles and play video #2. Repeat same procedure as video #1.

For videos, I recommend searching on YouTube for any of the Pixar Shorts (or any videos you think are suitable). If a video is too long, stop it at the 2 or 3-minute mark. Here are the links to the *Finding Nemo* clips that I used:

Video #1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVRENOxPdcw>

Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndq9-vmD058>

Name: _____

Present Continuous Verbs

Examples:

- Totoro is **swimming** in a river.
- The teachers are **talking** to the students.

Describe the picture: Look at the picture and write 5 sentences about the people. Each sentence should have a present continuous verb.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Describe the video: Listen to your partner and write down as many sentences as you can. Each sentence should have a present continuous verb.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____