Teach Continuous tenses using songs

skyteach

Here is a list of songs that can be used to practice Continuous tenses.

How lyrics can be used in the lesson?
- to present the topic
- to practise new target grammar
- to revise the grammar structure.

If you want to use our worksheets for higher levels, upgrade the task. Every worksheet contains lyrics with target grammar structure, a link to the video and some questions for discussion.

skyteach

Present Continuous
Elementary+

Complete the gaps using the Present Continuous. Listen and check

music video

Discuss!

1. Where do you think the singer is sailing home from?
2. Why does he sing 'I am dying, forever crying?'

I am sailing (Rod Stewart)

I_____ (sail)
I _____ (sail)
Home again
'Cross the sea
I _____ (sail)
Stormy waters
To be near you
To be free

I _____ (fly)
I _____ (fly)
Like a bird
'Cross the sky
I _____ (fly)
Passing high clouds
To be with you
To be free

Can you hear me, can you hear me
Through the dark night, far away
I _____(die), forever crying
To be with you, who can say

Can you hear me, can you hear me
Through the dark night far away
I_____(die), forever crying
To be with you, who can say

We _____(sail), we _____(sail)
Home again
'Cross the sea
We _____(sail)
Stormy waters
To be near you
To be free

Oh Lord, to be near you, to be free
Oh Lord, to be near you, to be free
Oh Lord, to be near you, to be free
Oh Lord

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Present Continuous
Elementary+

Complete the gaps with the verbs. Then listen and check.

searching waiting looking trying(x2) standing listening

music video

Discuss!

1. How does the singer feel?
2. Why does the singer want to be with someone who she doesn't know?

I'm with you (Avril Lavigne)

I'm _____on a bridge
I'm _____ in the dark
I thought that you'd be here by now
There's nothing but the rain
No footsteps on the ground
I'm _____but there's no sound

Isn't anyone _____to find me?
Won't somebody come take me home
It's a damn cold night
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you

I'm _____for a place
I'm _____for a face
Is anybody here I know
Cause nothing's going right
And everything's a mess
And no one likes to be alone

Isn't anyone _____ to find me?
Won't somebody come take me home
It's a damn cold night
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you

Oh why is everything so confusing
Maybe I'm just out of my mind
Yea yea yea
It's a damn cold night
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you
Take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you... I'm with you

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Present Continuous
Elementary+

Listen and correct mistakes in the song.

music video

Discuss!

1. Is the singer sad because she is falling for another person?
2. Do you think they know each other well?

Simply falling (Iyeoka)

There goes my heart again
All of this time I thought we were pretending
Nothing looks the same when your eyes are open
Now you play these games to keep my heartbeat spinning
You show me love, you show me love
You show me everything my heart is capable of
You reshape me like butterfly origami-yeah
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I simply falling for you

I'm take time to envision where your heart is
And justify why you're gone for the moment
I tumble sometimes, looking for sunshine
And you know this is right when you look into my eyes
You show me love, you show me love
You show me everything my heart is capable of
And now I can't break away from this fire that we started
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I simply falling for you,

There my heart goes again
In your arms I fall deeper
And there's nothing to break me away from this
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I simply falling
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I simply falling for you

There my heart goes again
You have broken into my heart
Oh I'm falling deeper, I'm falling deeper

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Present Perfect Continuous
Intermediate +

Listen to the song and put the lines in the correct order.

music video

Discuss!

1. What does it mean “to wait in the shadows”? Why does a person wait in the shadows?
2. Have you been living for tomorrows all your life?

In The Shadows (The Rasmus)

No sleep until I am done with finding the answer
No sleep
Won't stop
I know that I am haunted to be wanted
Somehow
Sometimes
Won't stop before I find a cure for this cancer
I feel like going down and so disconnected

For tomorrows all my life
I've been waiting
I've been watching
In the shadows for my time
I've been living
I've been searching

In the shadows

But I
Somehow
They say

Sometimes
That I must learn to kill before I can feel safe
I just don't wanna stay and wait for a wonder
I'd rather kill myself than turn into their slave
I feel that I should go and play with the thunder

For tomorrows all my life
I've been waiting
I've been watching
In the shadows for my time
I've been living
I've been searching

Feel me touch me heal me, come take me higher
Lately I been walking walking in circles, watching waiting for something

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Past Continuous and Present Perfect Continuous
Intermediate +

Listen and complete the gaps.

music video

Discuss!

1. What has the singer been waiting for too long?
2. What regrets does the singer have?

Too long (Yael Naim)

I waited for so long
Outside myself
You see I _____ _____
To be someone else
I _____ _____ to see
Who I wanted to be

And I've _____ _____ on my own
I've _____ _____ for too long
Not strong enough to be with you
And I've been making up my world
I've _____ _____ it with gold
Not strong enough to see you

I irrigate illusions
Then let them grow
How can I pacify myself?
And let go
And I ran wild to see
Who I turned out to be

I've _____ _____ on my own
I've _____ _____ on my own

But it was too cold
In my world, my world

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Present Continuous, Future Continuous and Present Perfect Continuous
Intermediate +

Underline the verbs in the Present Continuous, Future Continuous and Present Perfect Continuous. Why are these forms used in this song?

music video

Discuss!

1. Do you agree with a quote 'Everything that kills me makes me feel alive'? Do you have the same equivalent of this saying in your language?
2. Would you rather count dollars or count stars?

Counting stars (OneRepublic)

Lately I been, I been losing sleep
Dreaming about the things that we could be
But baby I been, I been prayin' hard
Said no more counting dollars
We'll be counting stars
Yeah, we'll be counting stars

I see this life
Like a swinging vine
Swing my heart across the line
In my faces flashing signs
Seek it out and ye shall find
The old, but I'm not that old
Young, but I'm not that bold
And I don't think the world is sold
I'm just doing what we're told

I, feel something so right
Doing the wrong thing
I, feel something so wrong
But doing the right thing
I could lie, could lie, could lie
Everything that kills me makes me feel alive

Lately I been, I been losing sleep
Dreaming 'bout the things that we could be
Baby I been, I been prayin' hard
Said no more counting dollars
We'll be counting stars

I feel the love
And I feel it burn
Down this river every turn
Hope is a four letter word
Make that money
Watch it burn
Old, but I'm not that old
Young, but I'm not that bold
And I don't think the world is sold
I'm just doing what we're told
I, feel something so wrong
But doing the right thing
I could lie, could lie, could lie
Everything that drowns me makes me wanna fly

Lately I been, I been losing sleep

Dreaming about the things that we could be
Baby I been, I been prayin' hard
Said no more counting dollars
We'll be counting stars

Take that money and watch it burn
Sink in the river the lessons I learned
Take that money and watch it burn
Sink in the river the lessons I learned
Take that money and watch it burn
Sink in the river the lessons I learned
Take that money and watch it burn
Sink in the river the lessons I learned
Everything that kills me makes me feel alive

Lately I been, I been losing sleep
Dreaming 'bout the things that we could be
Baby I been, I been prayin' hard
Said no more counting dollars

We'll be counting stars

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Do you know any other songs which contain
the examples of Continuous tenses? Share with us in the comments
below! What other grammar structures would you like to practice?

skyteach

Key:

I am sailing (Rod Stewart)

I am sailing
I am sailing
Home again
'Cross the sea
I am sailing
Stormy waters
To be near you
To be free

I am flying
I am flying
Like a bird
'Cross the sky
I am flying
Passing high clouds
To be with you
To be free

Can you hear me, can you hear me
Through the dark night, far away
I am dying, forever crying
To be with you, who can say

Can you hear me, can you hear me
Through the dark night far away
I am dying, forever crying
To be with you, who can say

We are sailing, we are sailing
Home again
'Cross the sea
We are sailing
Stormy waters
To be near you
To be free

Oh Lord, to be near you, to be free
Oh Lord, to be near you, to be free
Oh Lord, to be near you, to be free
Oh Lord

I'm with you (Avril Lavigne)

I'm standing on a bridge
I'm waiting in the dark
I thought that you'd be here by now
There's nothing but the rain
No footsteps on the ground
I'm listening but there's no sound

Isn't anyone trying to find me?
Won't somebody come take me home
It's a damn cold night
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you

I'm looking for a place
I'm searching for a face
Is anybody here I know
Cause nothing's going right
And everything's a mess
And no one likes to be alone

Isn't anyone trying to find me?
Won't somebody come take me home
It's a damn cold night
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you

Oh why is everything so confusing
Maybe I'm just out of my mind
Yea yea yea
It's a damn cold night
Trying to figure out this life
Won't you take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you
Take me by the hand
Take me somewhere new
I don't know who you are
But I, I'm with you
I'm with you

skyteach

Created by Yulia Belonog for Skyteach

Key:

Simply falling (Iyeoka)

There goes my heart again
All of this time I thought we were pretending
Nothing looks the same when your eyes are open
Now you're playing these games to keep my heartbeat spinning
You show me love, you show me love
You show me everything my heart is capable of
You reshape me like butterfly origami-yeah
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I am simply falling for you

I'm taking time to envision where your heart is
And justify why you're gone for the moment
I tumble sometimes, looking for sunshine
And you know this is right when you look into my eyes
You show me love, you show me love
You show me everything my heart is capable of
And now I can't break away from this fire that we started
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I am simply falling for you,

There my heart goes again
In your arms I'm falling deeper
And there's nothing to break me away from this
You have broken into my heart
This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I am simply falling
You have broken into my heart

This time I feel the blues have departed
Nothing can keep me away from this feeling
I know I am simply falling for you

There my heart goes again
You have broken into my heart
Oh I'm falling deeper, I'm falling deeper

skyteach

Key:

In The Shadows (The Rasmus)

No sleep
No sleep until I am done with finding the answer
Won't stop
Won't stop before I find a cure for this cancer
Sometimes
I feel like going down and so discon-nected
Somehow
I know that I am haunted to be wanted

I've been watching
I've been waiting
In the shadows for my time
I've been searching
I've been living
For tomorrows all my life

In the shadows

They say
That I must learn to kill before I can feel safe
But I
I'd rather kill myself than turn into their slave
Sometimes
I feel that I should go and play with the thunder
Somehow
I just don't wanna stay and wait for a wonder

I've been watching
I've been waiting
In the shadows for my time
I've been searching
I've been living
For tomorrows all my life

Lately I been walking walking in circles, watching waiting for something
Feel me touch me heal me, come take me higher

Too long (Yael Naim)

I waited for so long
Outside myself
You see I was pretending
To be someone else
I was longing to see
Who I wanted to be

And I've been waiting on my own
I've been waiting for too long
Not strong enough to be with you
And I've been making up my world
I've been painting it with gold
Not strong enough to see you

I irrigate illusions
Then let them grow
How can I pacify myself?
And let go
And I ran wild to see
Who I turned out to be

I've been waiting on my own
I've been waiting on my own
But it was too cold
In my world, my world

Counting stars (OneRepublic)

Present Continuous - I'm just doing
Future Continuous - We'll be counting stars
Present Perfect Continuous - I been, I been losing sleep, I been, I been prayin' hard

skyteach