

SARASWATI VIDYA NIKETAN
AT HOME READING & ACTIVITIES
ENGLISH A & B

INSTRUCTION: Read the summary of short story below.

Blood Brothers' by John Wickham

This story is about two brothers Paul and Benjy. Both brothers can be considered to be 'Blood Brothers' because they are thirteen year old twins. Despite the fact that Paul and Benjy are twins; they both display different personality traits. Paul is an introvert who loves nature and he loves to contemplate about life. Whereas, Benjy is Paul's polar opposite. This further reinforces that although both boys are genetically related that is where the commonality ends. Benjy is an extrovert who is very carefree and fun loving. However, Paul thinks his brother believes he is superior and as a result he grows to hate him. Paul is conflicted about his feelings because deep down he wants Benjy to be his friend and confidant. The story ends with Paul attacking Benjy. Benjy is surprised and confused because he did not know or understand why Paul reacted in this way.

Click on **AUDIO STORY LINK** below. Carefully listen to the short story, then answer the questions that follow.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1A4xWeluRk&t=188s>

QUESTIONS

1. Identify the major characters and describe their role in the story.
2. Compare and contrast Benjy and Paul. State which brother you prefer and why?
3. Outline the conflict that is present in the story and provide evidence to support your points.
4. State ONE MAIN THEME AND MORAL in the story.

Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is used for actions happening now or for an action that is unfinished.

This tense is also used when the action is temporary.

How to Form the Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is formed with the subject plus the present participle form (-ing) of the main verb and the present tense of the verb to be: am, is, are.

Present continuous tense = present tense of the 'to be' verb + present participle ('ing' ending verb)

e.g. Present continuous tense =  am/is/are + singing

One simple example of this tense is: **He is swimming**. "He" is the subject, "is" is the present tense of the verb to be and "swimming" is the present participle verb form. Some other forms of this verb tense are:

- I **am dancing** at church today.
- The boys **are playing** ball after school.
- She **is crying**.
- He **is talking** to his friend.
- The baby **is sleeping** in his crib.
- We **are visiting** the museum in the afternoon.

Present continuous tense can be used to express something happening right now or to express something that is not happening right now. Examples of this use include:

- He **is not standing**.
- Anthony **is sitting** in the chair.
- You **are not watching** the movie.

Present continuous tense can also be used to show that something will or will not happen in the near future. Examples of this use include:

- She **is not going** to the game tonight.
- He **is meeting** his friends after school.
- **Are you visiting** your cousin this weekend?
- I **am not going** to the meeting after work.
- **Is John playing** football today?

Present continuous tense can be used for actions that are still happening at the time of speaking. Examples of this use include:

- Marc **is making** pizza now.
- They **are eating** lunch right now.
- Frances **is talking** on the phone at the moment.

Present continuous tense can be used in questions as well. Here are some more examples of this use:

- **Is she laughing?**
- **Are they listening** to the teacher?
- **Is the baby drinking** his bottle?

REMINDER: The present continuous is made from the **present tense of the verb *be*** and the ***-ing form*** of a verb

ACTIVITY #1

UNDERLINE the present continuous tense, then indicate which is present tense of the 'to be' verb and which is the present participle.

1. Shopping online is growing in popularity nowadays.
2. The stocks are dropping constantly due to the economy.
3. Today, most people are using text messages instead of the phone.
4. We are leaving for the beach tomorrow morning.
5. The kids are arriving at six o'clock.
6. She is speaking at the conference this evening.
7. She is always coming to class late.
8. He is constantly talking. I wish he would keep quiet.
9. I don't like them because they are always complaining.
10. Is he visiting his parents next weekend?

ACTIVITY #2

Complete the following sentences using Present Continuous Tense. (Capitalize when needed)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. My son _____ (talk) on the phone right now.2. Are you _____ (you / sleep)?3. Jason _____ (do) his homework at the moment.4. Tom _____ (work) on a project nowadays.5. My kids _____ (play) in the garden now.6. Some people _____ (wait) to talk to you.7. My wife _____ (not cook) today.8. ___ Lucas _____ (study) for his exam right now?9. ___ Ryan _____ (play) the piano now?10. Lea and I _____ (paint) the fences today.11. Andrea _____ (help) me at present. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">12. My children _____ (not listen) to the radio now.13. Selena _____ (not drink) tea now.14. I _____ (vacuum) the carpet right now.15. My father _____ (watch) TV now.16. What ___ she _____ (eat) right now?17. ___ your dog _____ (hide) from me?18. What book _____ you _____ (read) nowadays?19. Thomas _____ (drive) me home now.20. I _____ (wash) my face at the moment. |
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