

Continuous aspect

We use **continuous aspect**:

- for something happening **before and after a specific time**:

*He's **getting** on the train.* (before and after the moment of speaking)

*It was a quarter past ten. We **were watching** the news on television.*

- for something happening **before and after another action**:

*Mother **will be cooking** the dinner when we get home.*

*We **were waiting** for the bus when it started to rain.*

- for something **continuing for some time**:

*Everybody **will be waiting** for us.*

*They **had been working** hard all day.*

- for something **happening again and again**:

*They've **been doing** that every day this week.*

*The children **were always shouting**.*

*He **will be practising** the piano every night.*

- for something **temporary**:

*We **are renting** an apartment until our house is ready.*

*He **was working** in a garage during the vacation.*

- for something **new**:

*We have moved from Birmingham. We're **living** in Manchester now.*

*He had left university and **was working** in his father's business.*

- to describe something **changing or developing**:

*Everything **has been getting** more difficult.*

*He **was growing** more bad-tempered every day.*

We can use **continuous aspect**:

- with **perfect aspect**:

*How long **have** you **been sitting** there?*

*I don't know how long she **had been learning** Spanish.*

- with **modal verbs**:

*Your friends **will be looking** for you.*

*They **might be playing** tennis.*

- with both **modal verbs** and **perfect aspect**:

You **should have been driving** more carefully.
Soon we **will have been living** here for 25 years.

We do **not** normally use the continuous aspect with **stative verbs**. We use the **simple instead**:

I don't understand you. (NOT am not understanding)
When I got home, I really **needed** a shower. (NOT was needing)
I've always **liked** John. (NOT been liking)

II. Complete the text with the words from the list. There are extra words you do not need to use.

coming talking remaining setting loading checking
boarding arriving performing managing landing taxiing

(1) _____ at the aircraft is a very busy time for both cabin and flight crew as a large number of tasks must be completed in a short period of time. This is particularly true if the aircraft is late
(2) _____ in from the previous flight.

During a busy turnaround the aircraft is approached by cleaners, engineers, refuellers, dispatchers and so on.

One pilot will normally be (3) _____ up the flight deck, whilst the other pilot will be outside (4) _____ an external check of the aircraft to look for any defects, bird strike damage, etc and (5) _____ that sensors and probes are free from obstructions.

The pilot (6) _____ on the flight deck will power up the aircraft and begin the pre-flight checks. This could mean starting the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) (APU) and setting all controls in the desired positions, which is usually done in accordance with a checklist. All the emergency equipment is also checked, such as oxygen masks and fire extinguishers.

The flight deck will then be set up for the particular departure that is anticipated (headings, levels and frequencies). This is usually done by the Pilot Flying (PF) as it is he/she that will be (7) _____ that particular leg. A very important part is the Flight Management System (FMS) which is the aircraft's main computer system that to a large extent controls the flight. It must be programmed for the flight; the whole flight must be entered from beginning to end and all waypoints checked. There is also other data that must be entered, such as the Cost Index.

At some point a dispatcher will enter the flight deck with a load sheet showing the final take-off weight and balance figures, which are based on the weights that the pilots provided during their pre-flight preparations. This is entered into the FMS, which in return provides all trip data e.g. fuel required, flight time, max flight level, etc Somewhere in the background passengers will be (8) _____ the aircraft.

III. Complete the sentences with appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. We _____ (wait) for the clearance for 15 minutes now. What is causing the delay?
2. This time tomorrow we _____ (take off) for Manchester.
3. We _____ (troubleshoot) the problem. We'll get back to in a few minutes.
4. We must wait. The ULDs _____ (still/load).
5. We _____ (taxi) to the gate when we clipped the FlyBe.
6. We _____ (fly) a hold for 20 minutes before they finally gave us landing clearance.
7. We _____ (evacuate) because of the fire in the cargo hold. Call the fire tenders!
8. Shamrock 234, confirm your present altitude. We _____ (show) you at FL250 at this time.

IV. Complete the sentences.

1. Aviation industry is currently ...
2. Aviation industry has been ... for ...
3. Boeing should have been ...
4. This time next year I will be ...

V. Discuss your statements in pairs.