33. SIMPLE PRESENT (*It causes…*) VS. PRESENT CONTINUOUS (*It is causing…*)
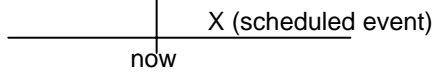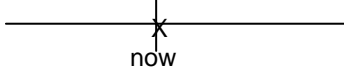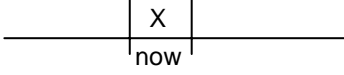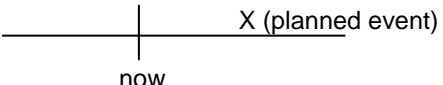
Five situations where you use the simple present tense:

FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
To express **routine**, **habit**, and **frequent events** (that happen regularly over time) To express a **fact**	X X X X X X X now **Routine/Pattern:** *Whenever unemployment is high, the crime rate rises.* **Habit:** *Most cigarette smokers feel the urge to smoke after a meal.* **Frequent event:** *The train usually runs late on weekends due to repairs.* **Fact:** *The earth rotates on its axis once every twenty four hours.*
To summarize the plot of a movie, short story, play or novel	*In the movie "Invasion of the Body Snatchers,", strange creatures come to earth from a distant planet. In the end, they take over the government.*
To talk about an event scheduled in the future	X (scheduled event) now *Registration begins at 9 a.m. tomorrow and ends at 5 p.m. the day after.*
To complete a time clause	*I will go to bed after I finish my homework.*

Three situations where you use the present continuous tense (*be + simple form + ing*):

FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
To talk about something that is happening right now	X now *What are you doing?* *I am studying for a calculus test.*
To talk about something taking place over a period of time in the present (extended present)	X now *Global population is growing at a rapid pace.*
To talk about a planned event in the future.	X (planned event) now *The committee is holding a meeting next week.*

Note: Only use the present continuous with action verbs.

Using the present continuous with a state verb (e.g., *know*) is almost always incorrect.

Incorrect: *The government is knowing the situation well.*

Correct: *The government knows the situation well.*