

～ている

ongoing action / state

Romaji: **te iru**

～ている (te-iru) describes either an action in progress ("is doing") or a state that resulted from a past action ("is married", "the door is open"). It is formed with a verb's て-form plus いる, and covers both the English "-ing" progressive and many "is/has" state descriptions. Which reading you get depends on the verb: duration verbs like 食べる or 読む give the progressive sense, while change-of-state verbs like 結婚する or 開く describe the state after the change.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (て-form) + いる

本を読んでいる。 — I'm reading a book.

Verb (て-form) + います (polite)

今、雨が降っています。 — It's raining right now.

Change-of-state verb (て-form) + いる → resulting state

姉は結婚している。 — My older sister is married.

Verb (て-form) + いない (negative: "hasn't / isn't")

まだ昼ご飯を食べていない。 — I haven't eaten lunch yet.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{いもうと}妹は^{いま}今、^{へや}部屋で^{おんがく}音楽を^き聞いている。

My little sister is listening to music in her room right now.

② ^{ちち}父は^{ずっと}ずっと^{とうきょう}東京の^{ぎんこう}銀行で^{はたら}働いている。

My father has been working at a bank in Tokyo this whole time.

③ ^き気がつくと、^{げんかん}玄関の^あドアが^あ開いている。

I suddenly notice the front door is standing open.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ In casual speech the い drops: 読んでいる → 読んでる, 食べています → 食べてます. Keep the full form in essays and formal writing.
- ▶ With instantaneous change-of-state verbs (結婚する, 知る, 死ぬ, 開く), ～ている is the current state, not an ongoing action: 知っている = "I know", not "I am getting to know".
- ▶ ～ている also covers habits and routines: 毎朝走っている can mean "I run every morning", much like English "I've been running every morning".
- ▶ For "haven't done it yet", use まだ～ていない. まだしなかった is a classic learner mistake — the plain past negative implies the chance has already passed.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Describe what three people around you (real or imagined) are doing right now, then add one thing you still haven't done today using まだ～ていない.