

Present Simple – Present Continuous



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



Why **are you standing** in the rain, Sam? People **don't usually stand** in the rain. They can catch a cold.

I **know** that Mum but Dad says **it's raining cats and dogs** today and I **want** to catch a little puppy.

Present Simple is used:

- for permanent situations.
She **works** in an office.
- for repeated or habitual actions in the present, especially with adverbs of frequency.
He often **buys** her flowers.
- for general truths and laws of nature.
The Sun **sets** in the west.
- for timetables or programmes.
The lesson **starts** at 10 o'clock.

Present Continuous is used:

- for temporary situations.
He's **looking** for a new job these days.
- for actions happening at or around the time of speaking.
Chris is **painting** the garage at the moment.
- with **always** to express annoyance or criticism. He's **always telling** lies!
- for fixed arrangements in the near future. I'm **flying** to London **tomorrow**. (It's all arranged. I've already bought the tickets. The time of the action is always stated or understood.)

Time Expressions with the present simple

usually, always, never, often, sometimes, every day / week / month / year, on Mondays / Tuesdays, in the morning / afternoon / evening, at night / the weekend, etc.

Time Expressions with the present continuous

now, at the moment, at present, this week / month, these days, today, tonight, tomorrow, next week, etc.

Adverbs of Frequency

Adverbs of frequency (often, always, usually, sometimes, rarely / seldom, never, etc.) are placed **before main verbs but after auxiliary / modal verbs** (be, have, can, will, must, shall, etc.).
He **often goes** to the theatre. He **is never** late. Tonia **doesn't usually go** to bed late.

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Present Simple – Present Continuous

1 Write the verbs in the third person singular.


- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 I miss – he <i>misses</i> | 6 I call – he |
| 2 I buy – she | 7 I go – he |
| 3 I carry – he | 8 I dry – she |
| 4 I fix – he | 9 I play – he |
| 5 I watch – she | 10 I see – he |

2 Put the verbs in the correct column in the third person singular, then say.

match	ring	teach	eat	cry	take
try	keep	rise	arrive	lose	like
bake	hit	care	begin	choose	sleep

/s/ after /f/, /k/, /p/, /t/	/ɪz/ after /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /z/	/z/ after other sounds
<i>bakes,</i>	<i>matches,</i>	<i>tries,</i>

3 Look at the table, then ask and answer questions as in the example:

			
	listen to music	read magazines	watch TV
Sally	✓		✓
Henry & Ann		✓	✓
You			

- 1 *Does* Sally listen to music? *Yes, she does.*
- 2 Sally read magazines?
- 3 Sally watch TV?
- 4 Henry & Ann listen to music?
- 5 Henry & Ann read magazines?
- 6 Henry & Ann watch TV?
- 7 you listen to music?
- 8 you read magazines?
- 9 you watch TV?

4 Match the verb forms in the sentences (1–6) to the correct use (a–f).

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 She works in a bank. | a a general truth |
| 2 They usually eat out on Saturdays. | b a timetable |
| 3 Wool comes from sheep. | c a permanent situation |
| 4 The Sun rises in the east. | d a programme |
| 5 The bus arrives at 5 o'clock. | e a repeated or habitual action |
| 6 The film starts in ten minutes. | f a law of nature |

5 a) Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple.

Jason is 12 years old and he 1) *lives* (live) in York. He 2) (go) to school every day by bus. Jason's mother 3) (teach) German at university and his father 4) (work) in a bank.

In his free time, Jason 5) (play) football with his friends. He 6) (want) to be a football player when he grows up.

At weekends, Jason 7) (not/wake up) early. After lunch, he and his dad often 8) (play) board games or 9) (ride) their bicycles. Later in the day, his mum usually 10) (take) him to visit his best friend, Henry, and they 11) (spend) the evening watching films.



b) In pairs, ask and answer as in the example:

A: *How old is Jason?*

B: *He's 12 years old. Where does he live?*

A: *He lives in York, etc.*

6 Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple.

1 A: What *does Peter do* (Peter/ do)?

B: He (work) as a computer technician for LT & Company.

2 A: (your brother/ exercise)?

B: Yes. He (go) jogging three times a week.

3 A: What time (the play/start)?

B: At 6 o'clock. We need to hurry!

4 A: How long (koalas/live)?

B: They (live) for about 15 years.

5 A: My dad (not/like) working out in the gym.

B: Really? Mine (love) weightlifting and using the pool.

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Present Simple – Present Continuous

7 Complete the sentences in order to make the statements true. Use *don't* / *doesn't* where necessary. Compare with your partner.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Rain <i>falls</i> (fall) from clouds. | 5 Sheep (eat) grass. |
| 2 Kangaroos (live) in Germany. | 6 Tomatoes (grow) on trees. |
| 3 Yoghurt (come) from plants. | 7 Cows (lay) eggs. |
| 4 Water (boil) at 100°C. | 8 Plants (need) water to grow. |

8 Put the adverbs of frequency in the correct place in the sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Mark goes fishing with his grandfather.
(rarely) <i>Mark rarely goes fishing with his grandfather.</i> | 5 Does Layla read books in her free time?
(usually) |
| 2 I don't play basketball at weekends.
(always) | 6 I meet my friends at the shopping centre.
(sometimes) |
| 3 Does Fred help his mother with the housework? (often) | 7 Sophie is at home on Sunday mornings.
(always) |
| 4 Ivan is at work on time. (never) | 8 They go to the theatre. (seldom) |

9 Fill in **A** (always), **U** (usually), **O** (often), **S** (sometimes), **R** (rarely) or **N** (never) to say how often you do these things at weekends. Then interview your partner and fill in his/her information. Ask and answer as in the example:

	You	Your partner
get up early	N	
clean your room		
surf the Net		
go to the cinema		
meet your friends		

- A: *How often do you get up early at weekends?*
 B: *I never get up early at weekends. How about you?*

Present Simple – Present Continuous

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Add *-ing* to the following verbs and put them into the correct column. Listen and check. Listen and repeat.

play drive lie read cycle ride write take sleep
swim run put travel die drink fly cut tie

+ ing	-ie → y + ing	-e → ing	double consonant + ing
<i>playing,</i>			

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Choose a verb from the list and complete the text.

read lie eat cry run sing play fish sit



Laura 1) *is sitting* under a sunshade. Two boys 2) around a sandcastle while their father 3) a newspaper. Two girls 4) ice cream while their mother 5) along with the radio. Some boys 6) football near a man who 7) Jim 8) on a beach towel. On his right, a baby 9)

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In pairs, ask and answer questions about the text above.

A: *Is Laura running?*

B: *No, she isn't. She's sitting under a sunshade, etc.*

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Present Simple – Present Continuous

13 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1 doing / homework / Betty and Ann / are / their

Betty and Ann are doing their homework.

2 children / TV / are / watching / the?

3 not / going / I / am / tonight / out

4 biting / you / always / nails / are / your!

5 next week / house / are / they / moving

6 is / at / week / aunt's / staying / this / Beth / her / house

7 Lucy / tidying / not / room / now / her / is

8 they / what / are / doing?

14 Look at the visual prompts. Complete the sentences using the verbs: go, have, visit, play.

Mum,
I'm at Laura's house with Kelly.
Jane

You're Invited!

Event: Deborah's Sweet 16

Date: Saturday July 19th

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Applebee's



RUGBY SUNDAY 1:00 pm

John,
meet me at the park at 4:00 pm this afternoon.
Bob

1 He *is playing* rugby at 1:00 pm on Sunday.

2 Jane and Kelly Laura now.

3 Deborah a birthday party on Saturday.

4 Bob to the park this afternoon.

15 Answer the questions in the negative as in the example. Use your own ideas.

1 Are you doing your homework?
No, I'm not. I'm writing in my diary.

2 Is your mother at the supermarket right now?

3 Are you having a party on Saturday?

4 Is your dad working on his laptop now?

5 Are your parents going to the cinema tonight?

6 Is your sister talking on her mobile right now?

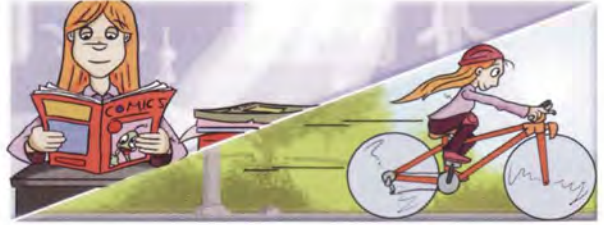
Present Simple – Present Continuous

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16 Cathy wants to get fit, so she has decided to make some changes. Look at the pictures and tell your partner.



1 at lunchtime / eat burgers / have a salad
Cathy usually eats burgers at lunchtime but today she is having a salad.



2 after lunch / read comics / ride her bike



3 in the afternoon / eat chocolate / eat yogurt



4 in the evening / watch TV / exercise at home

17 Work in pairs. Ask each other about your holiday arrangements. Talk about:

- where / go
- how / go
- what time / (plane) leave
- when / arrive
- where / stay
- why / want to go
- take / camera

A: *Where are you going on holiday?*
 B: *I'm going to Rome, etc.*



18 Choose a time expression from the list to complete each sentence. More than one answer is possible.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------|---------------|
| never | tonight | always | at the moment |
| every day | on Fridays | now | |

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 She <i>never</i> eats meat. She's a vegetarian. | 4 She goes out on Saturdays. |
| 2 Mother is reading the paper | 5 He drives to work |
| 3 They are going to a party | 6 She is watching TV right |
| | 7 Tim goes to the gym |

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Present Simple – Present Continuous

19 Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

- 1 A: *Do you want* (you/want) to come over tonight to play computer games?
B: Sorry, I can't. I (go) to the cinema with some friends from school.
- 2 A: (Ann/talk) on the phone?
B: No, she (do) her homework right now.
- 3 A: How often (you/go) swimming?
B: Three times a week.
- 4 A: Bob and Sophie (study) hard these days.
B: Yes, I know. They (want) to pass their exams.
- 5 A: I'm so happy Jim! My parents and I (go) on holiday next week.
B: That's great! Where (you/go)?
- 6 A: How long (it/take) to travel to London by plane?
B: About three hours.

20 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the *present continuous* or the *present simple*.

Hi Marvin,

I 1) *'m writing* (write) this letter from Portugal. I

2) (be) on holiday here with my family and we 3) (have) a great time.

Right now, I 4) (lie) on the beach. My little brother

5) (play) on the sand with his toys and my mother

6) (watch) him. My dad 7) (swim) in the sea.

I just love it here. We 8) (get up) late every day and

9) (spend) most of our time sunbathing.

This afternoon we 10) (go) into town to do a little sightseeing.

Then my parents 11) (take) us to a nice restaurant. They

12) (want) us to try the local cuisine. I hope it tastes good!

Well, that's all for now. See you when I get back!

Take care,

Wendy



21 Complete the sentences so that they are true about you.

- 1 I ... *have breakfast* ... in the morning.
- 2 My dad now.
- 3 My brother always
- 4 My parents at the moment.
- 5 My friend every day.

Stative Verbs

Some verbs rarely appear in the continuous tenses. These verbs express a permanent state and they are: **appear** (= seem), **be**, **believe**, **belong**, **cost**, **feel**, **forget**, **hate**, **have** (= possess), **know**, **like**, **love**, **mean**, **need**, **prefer**, **realise**, **remember**, **see**, **seem**, **smell**, **sound**, **suppose**, **taste**, **think**, **understand**, **want**, etc.

I understand it now. NOT I ~~am understanding~~ it now.

Some of these verbs can be used in continuous tenses but with a difference in meaning.

Present Simple

I **think** he's Italian.

(= believe)

Katie **looks** happy.

(= appears to be)

You can **see** the sea from my room.

(= it is visible)

Derek **has** a new car.

(= possesses)

This pie **tastes** really good.

(= it has a really good flavour)

This new dress **fits** her perfectly.

(= it is her size)

He **is** so polite.

(= that's his character)

She **appears** to be tired.

(= seems)

Present Continuous

Tom **is thinking** of moving house.

(= is considering)

They **are looking** at the paintings.

(= are taking a look at)

Sam **is seeing** his friends tonight.

(= is meeting)

We **are having** dinner at 8 o'clock.

(= are eating)

Paul **is tasting** the soup to see if it needs salt.

(= is trying)

He **is fitting** a new lock on the door.

(= is attaching)

He **is being** so rude today!

(= he is behaving like that only today)

She **is appearing** in a new TV show.

(= is taking part)

22 Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

1 A: I *see* (see) you still have a toothache.

B: Yes, I do. Actually, I
..... (see) my dentist later.

2 A: I
(think) of visiting Jim this afternoon.

B: Don't bother. I
..... (think) he's on a business trip.

3 A: Why
(Greg/be) so rude today?

B: I have no idea. He
..... (be) usually very polite.

4 A: Why (you/taste)
the sauce? Does it need more pepper?

B: No. It
..... (taste) great the way it is.

5 A: Why
..... (you/smell) the milk?

B: Because it
(smell) off. We should throw it away.

6 A: I see you
..... (have) a new mobile phone.

B: Yes, but I (have)
trouble understanding how it works.

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Present Simple – Present Continuous

23 Use the verbs to complete the sentences. Use the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

fit	look	have	smell	think
appear	prefer	not/know	not/like	not/belong

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Aya <i>prefers</i> classical music to jazz and pop.</p> <p>2 He new cabinets in the kitchen.</p> <p>3 She so relieved now that the test is over.</p> <p>4 Tom Indian food. It's too hot and spicy for him.</p> <p>5 The new rock band on stage tonight.</p> | <p>6 This isn't Ahmed's coat. It to him.</p> <p>7 The food nice.</p> <p>8 The funfair rides are exciting. We a great time!</p> <p>9 I where Jane is at the moment.</p> <p>10 The Browns of going to the theatre tonight.</p> |
|--|--|

24 **Underline the correct item.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 The children <u>are having</u> / have so much fun at the circus!</p> <p>2 Fiona <u>is looking</u> / looks at some photos.</p> <p>3 This jacket <u>is fitting</u> / fits you perfectly. You should buy it.</p> | <p>4 Ron <u>is wanting</u> / wants to become a pilot.</p> <p>5 I <u>am not understanding</u> / don't understand the meaning of that word.</p> <p>6 He <u>is loving</u> / loves playing football.</p> <p>7 I <u>am thinking</u> / think of buying a new CD.</p> |
|--|--|



What are you doing?

Imagine you are at home. In teams, students ask you questions to find out where you are and what you are doing.

- kitchen • bathroom • bedroom • living room

Team A S1: Are you in the living room?
 Leader: Yes, I am.
 Team A S2: Are you watching TV?
 Leader: No, I'm not, etc.

