

Present Simple - Present Continuous

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 tonight.

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.

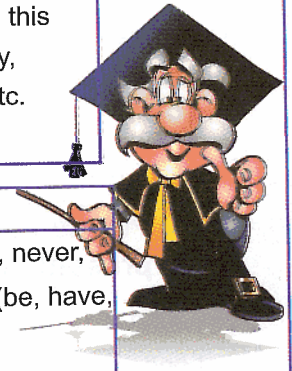
Time Expressions with the present continuous

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 verbs / 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.



1. Write the verbs in the **third person singular**.

- I miss - he **misses**
- I buy - she
- I carry - he
- I fix - he
- I watch - she
- I call - he
- I go - he
- I dry - she
- I play - he
- I see - he

2. Match the verb forms in the sentences (1-6) with the correct use (a-f).

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

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



	listen to music	read magazines	watch TV
Sally	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Henry&Ann	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
You	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 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. Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple.

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

In his free time, John 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.

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

- 1 **A:** What *does Tony do* (Tony/do)?
B: He *works* (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.

6. Complete the sentences in order to make the statements true. Use don't / doesn't where necessary.

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

7. Add -ing to the following verbs and put them into the correct column.

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

+ing

-ie → + y + ing

playing

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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.....

.....

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.....

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.....

.....

-e → + ing

double consonant + ing

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

1 I see my aunt and uncle because they live far away. (**rarely**)

I rarely see my aunt and uncle because they live far away.

2 Oliver is at school on time. (**never**)

3 Fiona watches TV in the evening. (**always**)

4 Sue spends her Saturdays with her friends. (**usually**)

5 Do you travel abroad? (**often**)

6 Jane plays in the park. (**sometimes**)

7 Mark goes fishing with his grandfather. (**rarely**)

8 I don't play basketball at weekends. (**always**)

9 Does Fred help his mother with the housework? (**often**)

10 Ivan goes out at night. (**never**)

11 Does Ann read books in her free time? (**usually**)

12 I meet my friends at the shopping centre. (**sometimes**)

13 Mary is at home on Sunday mornings. (**always**)

14 They go to the theatre. (**seldom**)

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

1 they / what / are / doing?

What are they doing?

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

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

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

5 next week / house / are / they / moving / to / their

6 children / TV / are / watching / the?

7 not / going / I / am / tonight / out

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

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

1 The train for Manchester *leaves* (**leave**) at 5 o'clock.

2 The yoghurt (**smell**) awful! We should throw it away.

3 How often (**you/see**) your friends?

4 The sun (**rise**) in the east.

5 Where (**your father/work**)?

6 (**the Bensons/fly**) to Jamaica next week?

7 She (**never/go out**) on Sunday evenings.

8 Grandma (**stay**) with us for a few weeks.

9 The soup (**taste**) really good.

10 I (**need**) a piece of paper to write on.

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.

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)*

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

- 1 **A:** Why *...are you tasting...* (you/taste) the sauce? Does it need more pepper?
B: No. It *...tastes...* (taste) great the way it is.
- 2 **A:** Why (you/smell) the milk?
B: Because it (smell) off. We should throw it away.
- 3 **A:** you (have) a new mobile phone?
B: Yes, but I (have) trouble understanding how it works.
- 4 **A:** I (see) you still have a toothache.
B: Yes, I do. Actually, I (see) my dentist later.
- 5 **A:** I (think) of visiting Jim this afternoon.
B: Don't bother. I (think) he's on a business trip.
- 6 **A:** Why (Greg/be) so rude today?
B: I have no idea. He (be) usually very polite.

12. Use the verbs to complete the sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous.

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

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

13. Underline the correct item.

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

14. Look at the picture. Ask and answer questions as in the examples:



- ~~look / map~~ • take / pictures • look at / postcards
- drink / coffee • feed / birds • eat / sandwich
- read / book

- 1- A: *What's Mr Jones doing*.....?
 B: *He's looking at a map.*.....
- 2 A:?
 B:
- 3 A:?
 B:
- 4 A:?
 B:
- 5 A:?
 B:
- 6 A:?
 B:
- 7 A:?
 B:

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

Hi Isabel,
 I'm in the beautiful city of Oxford. I ¹ *am studying* (study) German and Russian at the university here. I ² (find) both languages interesting but German ³ (be) more difficult. All the other students in the course ⁴ (feel) like that. We ⁵ (meet) once a week to discuss the lectures. This week, we ⁶ (go) to the theatre in London to see a play. I ⁷ (stay) on the campus for the moment but a few of us ⁸ (look) for a house to share. The food in the halls ⁹ (not/be) very good, so we usually ¹⁰ (have) lunch at a restaurant nearby. I hope to hear from you soon.
 Take care,
 Bill

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

- 1 A: Bob and Sophie *are studying* (study) hard these days.
 B: Yes, I know. They (want) to pass their exams.
- 2 A: I'm so happy Jim! My parents and I (go) on holiday next week.
 B: That's great! Where (you/go)?
- 3 A: How long (it/take) to travel to London by plane?
 B: About three hours.
- 4 A: How often (you/go) swimming?
 B: Three times a week.
- 5 A: (Ann/talk) on the phone?
 B: No, she (do) her homework right now.
- 6 A: (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.

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

Hi Marvin,
 I ¹ *am 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

