

1 Present simple

+	verb/verb + (e)s	He <i>plays</i> tennis.
-	do/does not + verb	She <i>doesn't</i> play tennis.
?	do/does ... + verb?	Do you <i>play</i> tennis?

We use the present simple

- to talk about regular habits or repeated actions:

*I **get up** really early and **practise** for an hour or so **most days**.*

*I **use** the Internet **just about every day**.*

Words that describe how often or when are often used (e.g. *always, generally, normally, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never, every day, every evening*).

- to talk about permanent situations:

*My parents **own** a restaurant.*

⚠ We use the present perfect, not the present simple, to say how long something has continued:

*I **have worked** there since I was 15. (~~not I work there since I was 15~~ : see Unit 3)*

- to talk about facts or generally accepted truths:

*Students **don't generally have** much money.*

*If you heat water to 100°C, it **boils**. (see Unit 17)*

The following words are often used: *generally, mainly, normally, usually, traditionally*.

- to give instructions and directions:

*You **go** down to the traffic lights, then you **turn** left.*

*To start the programme, first you **click** on the icon on the desktop.*

- to tell stories and talk about films, books and plays:

*In the film, the tea lady **falls** in love with the Prime Minister.*

2 Present continuous

+	am/is/are + verb + -ing	He's <i>living</i> in Thailand.
-	am/is/are not + verb + -ing	I'm <i>not</i> living in Thailand.
?	am/is/are ... + verb + -ing?	Are they <i>living</i> in Thailand?

We use the present continuous

- to talk about temporary situations:

*I'm **studying** really hard for my exams.*

*My cousin **is living** in Thailand **at the moment**. (= he doesn't normally live there)*

Words like *at the moment, currently, now, this week/month/year* are often used.

- to talk about actions happening at the moment of speaking:

*I'm **waiting** for my friends.*

- to talk about trends or changing situations:

*The Internet **is making** it easier for people to stay in touch with each other.*

*The price of petrol **is rising** dramatically.*

- to talk about things that happen more often than expected, often to show envy or to criticise with words like *always, constantly, continually, forever*:

*My mum's **always saying** I don't help enough! (complaint)*

*He's **always visiting** exciting places! (envy)*

3 State verbs

The present continuous is not normally used with state verbs because the meaning of the verb itself is a general truth rather than something temporary. These verbs describe thoughts, feelings, senses, possession and description.

Here are some examples of state verbs.

- ♦ thoughts: *agree, assume, believe, disagree, forget, hope, know, regret, remember, suppose, think, understand*

*I **assume** you're too busy to play computer games.*

- ♦ feelings: *adore, despise, dislike, enjoy, feel, hate, like, love, mind, prefer, want*

***Do you mind** if I ask you a few questions?*

*I **love** music.*

- ♦ senses: *feel, hear, see, smell, taste*

*This pudding **smells** delicious.*

⚠ To talk about something happening now we use *can*:

*I **can smell** something burning.*

- ♦ possession: *have, own, belong*

*My parents **own** a restaurant.*

- ♦ description: *appear, contain, look, look like, mean, resemble, seem, smell, sound, taste, weigh*

*You **look like** your mother. (= a permanent situation, not a temporary one)*

⚠ Some state verbs can be used in the continuous form when the meaning is temporary.

Compare:

*What **are** you **thinking** about? (now)*

*I **think** you should tell her exactly what happened. (my opinion, so not temporary)*

*I'm **tasting** the sauce to see if it needs any more salt.*

*The sauce **tastes** delicious.*

*She's **having** a great time. (is having = is experiencing, not possession)*

*Students **don't** generally **have** much money. (have = possession)*

A Context listening

- 1** You are going to hear a woman interviewing a student for a survey about what people do in their free time. Before you listen, look at the pictures. Which activities do you think the student does in his free time?



- 2** **1** Listen and check if you were right.

- 3** **1** Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false. If a statement is false, write the correction.

- 1 Peter is waiting for his friends.
- 2 He isn't studying much this month.
- 3 His parents own a shop.
- 4 He practises the guitar most mornings.
- 5 He frequently uses the Internet.
- 6 His cousin is living in America at the moment.
- 7 Peter doesn't support any football teams.

- 4** Look at your answers to Exercise 3 and answer these questions.

- 1 Which sentences are about a situation that is permanent or a fact?
- 2 Which sentences are about everyday habits?
- 3 Which sentence is about an action happening at the moment of speaking?
- 4 Which sentences are about a temporary situation?

PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS- WS 1

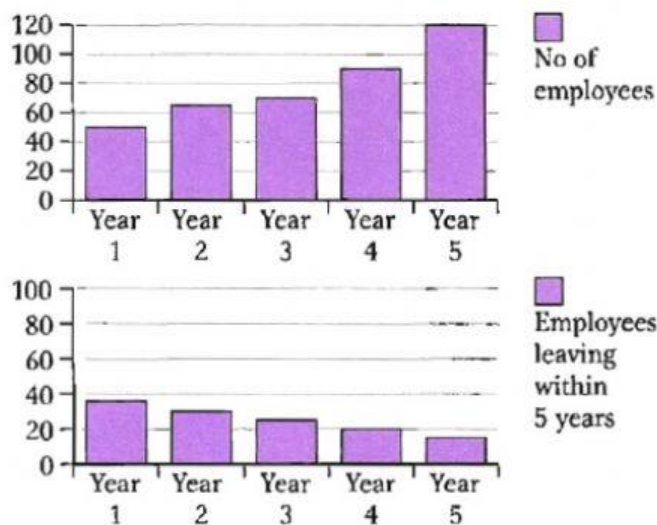
3 Fill in the gaps with the verbs in the box in the correct present tense.

agree catch up cause have go up know think use

We 1 use energy for three main things: electricity production, heating and transport. For the first two, we 2 options such as solar and wind power, or natural gas. But oil is still the world's number one source of energy, and for transport at least, there is currently no alternative. In China, domestic energy consumption 3 year by year and demand in similar regions 4 fast. We 5 how to use energy more efficiently now than in the past but the worldwide rise in demand 6 concern amongst experts. Some experts 7 that oil supplies will start to fall within the next twenty years. Most experts 8 that we need to find a new source of energy soon.

4 Look at the following extracts. There are six incorrect verbs. Find and correct them.

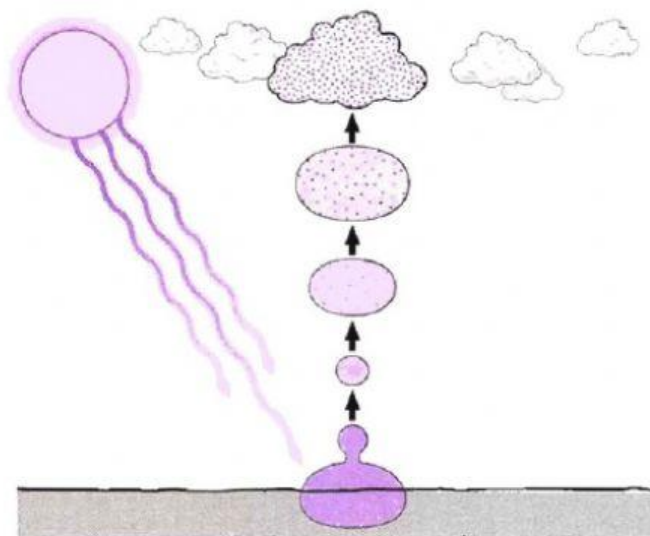
Extract A



From the graphs, we are seeing that the number of employees employed by this firm increases each year and the number of employees leaving after less than five years decreases.

- 1 can see
- 2
- 3

Extract B



The sun heats the ground This is warming the air nearby and the warm air rises into the sky. As the air is rising, it becomes cooler and the water vapour inside it change into droplets of water. These join together to form a cloud.

- 4
- 5
- 6