Grammar

Unit 1

a Present Simple vs Present Progressive / Present Continuous

Present Simple

Affirmative	Questions
I work He works	Do you work? Does she work?
Negative	
It does not (doesn't) work They do not (don't) work	

Present Progressive

Affirmative	Questions
I am (I'm) working He is (He's) working	Are you working? Is she working?
Negative	
It is not (isn't) working They are not (aren't) working	

We use the Present Simple:

- for habits or actions that happen regularly in the present.
  I usually drink coffee in the morning.
  The school bus picks us up at 7:30 every morning.
- for situations that are true in the present.
  We live in a flat.
- for general truths.
  Bees make honey.
- for actions that take place according to a schedule.
  What time does your plane leave tomorrow?
- in story telling, film and book reviews, sports commentaries, instructions.
  Peter Roth scores and the fans go wild.

Time Expressions

always, usually, often, occasionally, rarely, never, hardly ever, etc.
every day/week, etc.
once/twice/three times, etc. a day/month, etc.
at the weekend, etc.
on Sundays/Sunday morning, etc.
in the morning, in winter, etc.

We use the Present Progressive:

- for temporary states.
  Mark is working at his father's shop this week.
- for actions taking place at the moment of speaking.
  He's studying for a test right now.
- for future arrangements (we mention when).
  We are going to London next week.
- for annoying habits or repeated actions, with adverbs of frequency such as **always**, **constantly**, etc.
  My brother is always telling me what to do!

Time Expressions

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

b Stative Verbs

Stative verbs describe states (not actions). We do not usually use stative verbs in continuous tenses.

Stative verbs express states. They are **not** usually used in the Present Progressive.

Stative Verbs usually refer to:

- **Verbs of the senses:** feel, hear, smell, taste, see, sound, notice, look (=seem), etc.
- **Verbs of emotions and preferences:** love, hate, like, dislike, prefer, want, fear, mind, wish, need, admire, etc.
- **Verbs of perception and opinion:** think (=believe), believe, imagine, hope, know, mean, understand, expect, remember, forget, etc.
- **Other verbs:** be, have (=possess), cost, belong, appear, weigh, seem, consist, own, etc.

Some **stative verbs** are used in the Present Progressive, but with a different meaning. Some of these are:

see *I see Jack's car in the distance.*	**see** (=meet, visit) *I am seeing my dentist tomorrow.*
think *I think that Sandra Bullock is a good actress.*	**think of/about** (=process in one's mind) *She's thinking of buying a new car.*
have *They have a Siamese cat.*	**have** (=drink, eat, take) *We are having breakfast now.*
taste *This cake tastes delicious!*	**taste** (=try food) *The chef is tasting the food.*
look *You look worried. Is something wrong?*	**look** (=see) *What are you looking at?*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

NOTE: The verbs **listen** and **watch** refer to senses but they are not stative verbs, so they can be used in the Present Progressive.
We're watching a football game right now.

The verbs **see**, **hear**, **smell**, **taste** and **feel** are commonly used with **can** to indicate an action happening now.
I can hear a strange noise coming from the kitchen.

Activities

A. Circle the correct words.

1. Can you please answer the phone? I **have / 'm having** a shower.
2. Summer **comes / is coming** after spring.
3. That woman **looks / is looking** at you. I **believe / 'm believing** she **wants / 's wanting** to talk to you.
4. Stevenson **takes / is taking** the ball and **passes / is passing** it to McFerry.
5. Kevin **doesn't go / isn't going** out at all this week. He **studies / 's studying** for a test.
6. My mum **drinks / is drinking** three cups of coffee a day.
7. Kathy **is meeting / meets** Maria tomorrow afternoon.
8. Hurry up! The bus **leaves / is leaving**!

Textbook: Unit 1 page

Complete with the Present Simple or the Present Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

1. **A:** Why are you in such a hurry? What time _____ the train to Brighton _____ (leave)?
   B: At 9 p.m. But I _____ (want) to be at the train station at six o'clock because I _____ (meet) my friend Sally.
2. **A:** Whose suitcase is this?
   B: It's Timothy's. He _____ (stay) with us for a few days.
   A: Really? Where is he now?
   B: He's outside with Larry. They _____ (wash) the car. Larry _____ (always / wash) the car on Sundays.
3. **A:** Hey, Mary. Can you explain this text to me? I _____ (not understand) it.
   B: Not now, Kevin. I _____ (work).
   A: Oh Mary. You _____ (never / help) me!
4. **A:** Why _____ the children _____ (cry)?
   B: Because they can't find their cat. They _____ (think) someone took it.
   A: Their cat is outside. It _____ (sleep) next to the garage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS