

Grammar

Present Simple & Present Continuous

A Read the sentences below. Match each sentence with one use of the Present Simple.

- 1 Water **boils** at 100°C.
- 2 His parents **work** at a bank.
- 3 We **have** a dance class next week.
- 4 The English **drink** a lot of tea.

- a habits and repeated actions ☐
- b permanent situations ☐
- c scientific facts ☐
- d future actions based on timetables and schedules ☐

Be careful

We often use adverbs of frequency with the Present Simple. They go after the verb be but before all other main verbs.

B Read the sentences below. Match each sentence with one use of the Present Continuous.

- 1 You **are always interrupting** me!
- 2 What **are you doing** at the weekend?
- 3 I **am saving** up for a car.
- 4 The baby **is crying**! It must be hungry.
- 5 Families **are becoming** smaller and smaller these days.

- a actions happening now ☐
- b temporary situations ☐
- c future plans ☐
- d annoying habits ☐
- e changing and developing situations in the present ☐

Stative Verbs

C Read the sentences below and underline the verbs.

- 1 Peter **hates** his new school.
- 2 He **understands** the problem now.
- 3 These flowers **smell** wonderful.
- 4 Who **owns** the blue car outside?

D Complete the rule with the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

We don't use some verbs in continuous tenses. They are called stative because they describe states and not actions. To talk about the present, we use these verbs in the _____ tense.

E Some verbs can be both stative and action verbs, but with a different meaning. How does the meaning of *think* change in the sentences below?

- 1 They **think** that having a lot of children is fantastic.
- 2 They **are thinking** of moving house this year.

F Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Quiet William! Why _____ so noisy this morning?
a are you be b are you being
- 2 Who's that? I _____ her name.
a 'm not remembering b don't remember
- 3 Irene _____ with her cousin for a few weeks.
a lives b is living
- 4 Granddad isn't feeling well. He _____ the doctor later today.
a 's seeing b sees
- 5 Tony _____ his grandfather.
a is looking like b looks like
- 6 Mum and Dad always _____ us with them on holidays.
a take b are taking
- 7 Bob and Sue _____ to their aunt Maisie's house every weekend.
a are going b go
- 8 Why _____ children are jealous of each other?
a do you think b are you thinking

G Complete the text with the correct Present Simple or Present Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Identical twins

I (1) _____ (think) that identical twins are fascinating. They (2) _____ (have) the same DNA, but they've got different fingerprints and they often have different personalities too. My sisters Katy and Sandy (3) _____ (be) identical twins, and my parents and I (4) _____ (not / know) which twin is which most of the time. In fact, they (5) _____ (always / play) tricks on us, which is not funny! They (6) _____ (wear) different clothes every morning, so we know who is who but then they (7) _____ (sometimes / change) clothes later just to confuse us. There is only one thing that helps us tell who is who: Katy (8) _____ (spend) a lot of her free time reading books, but Sandy (9) _____ (hate) reading. She often complains about it, saying 'Katy (10) _____ (read) again!'

