

PRESENT SIMPLE vs. PRESENT CONTINUOUS

When do we use each tense?

Match the numbers with the letters to find out.

Present Simple

1. _____

- Oliver always wears a uniform to school.
- She often goes to the mall during the weekend.
- I never drink black tea without milk.

2. _____

- Horses eat grass and other plant material.
- Water boils at 100 degrees.
- The sun sets in the west.

3. _____

- I am the Queen. I live in the UK.

4. _____

- The flight to London leaves at 9 am on Saturday.

5. _____

- McGuffin takes the ball from Bates, he passes it to Hitchcock but Brian slides in and kicks Hitchcock in the shin! Oh, what a disaster this game is!

Present Continuous

1. _____

- Oliver always wears a uniform to school, but today he's wearing a giraffe costume.
- She often goes to the mall, but now she's staying home.
- I never drink black tea without milk, but now I'm making an exception.

2. _____

- The horses are sleeping now.
- The water is boiling. Let's make the tea.
- The sun is setting in China now.

3. _____

- The Queen is staying at the White House tonight.

4. _____

- Alex is painting the town red next weekend.

5. _____

- They are riding camels in the middle of the city.

6. _____

- We are getting better and better at English.

7. _____

- Ana is always losing her things!

PRESENT SIMPLE	PRESENT CONTINUOUS
A. NARRATIVES (telling a story, a joke, a plot or sports commentaries) B. ROUTINES & HABITS C. TIMETABLED EVENTS IN THE FUTURE *we cannot control the future event D. GENERAL TRUTHS E. PERMANENT STATES	A. DESCRIBING PICTURES B. PERSONAL PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE *we can control the future event C. ACTIONS THAT ARE IN PROGRESS AT/AROUND THE TIME OF SPEAKING D. ACTIONS THAT ARE TEMPORARY (X2) E. SITUATIONS THAT ARE CHANGING/DEVELOPING IN THE PRESENT F. AN ANNOYING HABIT (often with <i>ALWAYS</i>, <i>CONTINUALLY</i>, <i>CONSTANTLY</i> and <i>FOREVER</i>)