

PRESENT SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS – USES

Match the following examples to the correct definition:

Present Simple:

a. It rains a lot in Britain.	1. to make general, usually true (often scientific) statements.
b. The next train arrives at 3.20.	2. to describe habitual actions (adverbs of frequency).
c. Metal expands when heated.	3. to describe a permanent state or condition.
d. We must give him a present before he goes.	4. with verbs NOT usually used in their continuous form (senses/emotions/thinking).
e. Hindus believe in reincarnation.	5. to give instructions or directions.
f. I usually get up late on Saturdays.	6. to describe a future event which you cannot change, eg on a timetable.
g. I'll wash if you cook.	7. in time clauses with future meaning.
h. First you peel the carrots...	8. in IF clauses of Conditional 1 type sentences.

Present Continuous:

a. I normally drive to work but this week I'm taking the bus.	1. to describe an action happening now, at this very moment.
b. You are always interrupting me!	2. to describe a temporary state or activity.
c. Barney is studying Maths at university.	3. to describe a future plan or arrangement, usually with a specific day or time.
d. Ann can't come to the phone. She's having a bath.	4. to express irritation or surprise at a repeated habit or event (used with always).
e. He's meeting Mr Redford tomorrow.	5. to describe an activity in progress but not necessarily happening at this moment.