

# UNIT 1

## THE PRESENT INDEFINITE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

**Ex. 1.** The text below is from an interview with a Hollywood actress Gloria Martin. Read the text and put the verbs in brackets into the Present Indefinite or the Present Continuous Tense.

My life (get) \_\_\_\_\_ pretty busy at the moment.

I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a 14-hour day, but I'm lucky because we (film) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Santa Monica mountains now, 15 minutes from home.

I usually (get up) \_\_\_\_\_ at 4 a.m.

I (have breakfast) \_\_\_\_\_ at 4.30.

When I (have breakfast) \_\_\_\_\_, my husband (read) \_\_\_\_\_ newspapers to me.

I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ no other time for that. I generally (walk or cycle) \_\_\_\_\_ to work.

My day (start) \_\_\_\_\_ with hair and make-up.

While I (get ready) \_\_\_\_\_ for the camera I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ through my role again.

I often (feel) \_\_\_\_\_ nervous even after all these years! But when I (stand) \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the cameras, I (forget) \_\_\_\_\_ everything. I (enjoy) \_\_\_\_\_ my work though when I (not/work) \_\_\_\_\_, my favourite thing is to do absolutely nothing!

**Ex. 2.** Read the dialogue. Underline the correct verb.

### **Mrs Kay and her cat, Fletcher, are at the vet's**

Mrs Kay: Good morning.

Vet: Hello there, Mrs Kay. Who's this? Fletcher, isn't it? What's the trouble with him?

Mrs Kay: I'm afraid he *isn't feeling/doesn't feel* at all well.



- Vet: Yeah ... He's very listless, isn't he? His coat *looks/is looking* rather dull. As far as I remember his coat usually *is shining/shines*.
- Mrs Kay: Yes, he *is losing/loses* hair by the handful and he *gets/is getting* these nasty scrabs all over. Look...
- Vet: Yes, I see. There's another one here. Hmm... *Does he eat/is he eating* properly now?
- Mrs Kay: Generally he *is eating/eats* very well. But he *is eating/eats* very little now. And he *scratches/is scratching* himself all the time. It's terrible.
- Vet: Yeah, I suspect it's some kind of allergy...

**Ex. 3.** Read the joke. Put the verbs on the left in the correct form (the Present Indefinite or Present Continuous)

come  
walk  
bark  
say  
just make  
always do  
come  
know  
never bite  
say  
know  
know  
know

### The New Postman

One day a new postman \_\_\_\_\_ to a house and \_\_\_\_\_ in through the gate. To his horror, a big, angry-looking dog \_\_\_\_\_ on the front doorstep. "Don't worry," \_\_\_\_\_ the lady of the house. "He \_\_\_\_\_ a noise. He \_\_\_\_\_ that when anyone \_\_\_\_\_ to the door and anyway, you \_\_\_\_\_ the old proverb 'a barking dog \_\_\_\_\_'." "Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ the postman. I \_\_\_\_\_ the old proverb, and you \_\_\_\_\_ the old proverb. The only trouble is: \_\_\_\_\_ the dog \_\_\_\_\_ the old proverb?"

**Ex. 4.** The English are very exact about the proper tense forms since each form implies a special sense which is not interchangeable. Bear it in mind while translating the passage.

- Англичане любят работать в саду, и мы – не исключение. (no exception)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Сейчас там работает мама.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Она наслаждается красотой сада, когда там расцветают цветы – они так прекрасно пахнут.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- На прошлой неделе пара птичек устроилась (settle) на дереве.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Каждый год в нашем саду живет (nest) множество птиц.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Мы ожидаем (expect) их в этом году.  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Сейчас птицы выют (make) гнезда; мы наблюдаем за ними часами (for hours and hours).
8. Бетти и Тим защищают их от кошек, вот почему они ставят здесь заграждения (barrier).
9. Они с нетерпением ждут (look forward to) того времени, когда родители будут кормить своих птенцов.

**Ex. 5.** Translate the words in brackets. Don't forget that we also use the Present Continuous when we're planning to do something.

*Dear Jane,*

*When you (собираешься установить/get) \_\_\_\_\_ your telephone answering machine? I can never reach you by phone – so here's a short note.*

*I think it's wonderful that you (планируешь организовать/have) \_\_\_\_\_ a weekend beach party for Tom. I'm so sorry that we can't come. That weekend we're terribly busy. Tanya (будет представлять/present) \_\_\_\_\_ her designs for the new senior center to the planning committee on Friday. On Saturday we (помогаем) \_\_\_\_\_ at a sport + activity day for disabled children.*

*They (приглашается/bring) \_\_\_\_\_ in a puppet theatre, pony rides, etc. We (организуем) \_\_\_\_\_ volleyball games!*

*It sounds fun.*

*I want to ask you for help in August. Martin and I (едем) \_\_\_\_\_ on study tour – walking across fields looking at Celtic cult centers, and we want to sleep in a stone circle one night and watch the sunrise (if it doesn't rain). Could I borrow your back-pack and rain poncho?*

*Call me – I have got an answering machine. Have a wonderful time at the party. We (посылаем) \_\_\_\_\_ Tom a present with the Hunts.*

*Love, Jason*

**Ex. 6.** Look at Stephan's letter to a penfriend in England. Stephan doesn't know English well enough. That's why he has made 14 mistakes. Find them and correct.

### Keeping in touch

*Dear Anna,*

*Thanks for your nice newsy letter. We glad to hear you all do fine and that your work is coming along well. We get into our busy season too, but since we're no longer working on Saturdays, we are having more time to ourselves.*

### Corrections

*The work on our house go very slowly. We are finding out that carpenters aren't the most reliable people. They are promise come and then they doesn't show up, or they tell you they is ill or God knows what. Since we can't use the upstairs rooms, things is rather cramped and we all getting on each other's nerves. But we're doing our best to keep up our sense of humour.*

*The girls is fine. Jodie have a babysitting job every day after school, and Sarah are taking piano lessons. They both sends their love.*

*That's all for now. Take care, and keep in touch.*

*Love, Stephen*