

# Contrast: present simple and present continuous

*I can talk about what usually happens and what is happening now.*

## 1 Complete the rules. Write *present simple* or *present continuous*.

We use the:

- 1  for something that happens regularly, always or never.
- 2  for something happening at this moment.
- 3  for something happening around this time.
- 4  for a fact that is always true.
- 5  with certain verbs that we don't usually use in continuous tenses, e.g. *believe, know*, etc.

## 2 Match the sentences (a–h) with the rules in exercise 1. Write 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

- a This week my dad is working in London. ☐
- b I'm wearing a blue T-shirt. ☐
- c School finishes at four o'clock. ☐
- d Do you understand this word? ☐
- e I don't want a sandwich. ☐
- f The sun comes up in the east. ☐
- g We usually walk to school. ☐
- h Why are you smiling? ☐

## 3 Complete the email. Use the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

✉ To: mel@email.com

Hi Mel,

What  (you / do) at the moment?

I  (sit) in Mario's café.


I  (drink) a milkshake. This café

(make) the best milkshakes in town!

I  (often / come) here after school with my friend Sally. In fact, I  (wait) for her now. She's always late. I  (not understand) why! Anyway, can I borrow your geography textbook? I  (need) it for that test next week. I can't find mine. Oh, Sally  (come) into the café now.

Bye, see you later!

Dan



## 4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the present simple in one gap and the present continuous in the other.

- 1 Tom often  trainers to school, but today he  shoes. (wear)
- 2 We  a DVD at the moment, but we  TV most evenings. (watch)
- 3 I usually  a sandwich for lunch, but today I  some soup. (have)
- 4 My mum  in an office in Manchester, but this month she  in Glasgow. (work)
- 5 It hardly ever  here, but it  at the moment. (snow)
- 6 Jason and Tilly  their bedrooms right now, but they usually  them at the weekend. (tidy)

## 5 Complete the sentences with the verbs below. Use the affirmative or negative form of the present simple or the present continuous.

have know laugh like prefer sing watch

- 1 Which  you , history or geography?
- 2 'Where's George?' 'He  a shower.'
- 3 I  this pizza. It's horrible!
- 4 'We  the answer to this question.' 'Well, ask the teacher.'
- 5 'What's that terrible noise?' 'Kate !'
- 6 'Why  Ben ?' 'Because he  a funny film.'

## 6 There are mistakes in five of these sentences. Find the mistakes and write the five sentences correctly.

- 1 'Are you wanting an ice cream?' 'No, thanks.'
- 2 Right now I do my homework.
- 3 I'm reading a really good book about Cristiano Ronaldo.
- 4 Josh and Sam are hating maths.
- 5 I don't believe in ghosts.
- 6 I'm sometimes play the guitar in my bedroom.
- 7 It's sometimes raining a lot in Scotland.