

Tense Forms

1



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



Present Simple is used: - for permanent situations or states. <i>He works in a hospital.</i> - for general truths and laws of nature. <i>Water boils at 100°C.</i> - for repeated/habitual actions (especially with adverbs of frequency: often, usually, always, etc.). <i>He always does his homework.</i> (Here 'always' means every day.) - for reviews/sports commentaries/narrations. <i>José Carreras sings wonderfully in this recording.</i> - for timetables/programmes (future meaning). <i>The race starts at 3:00 pm.</i> - in exclamatory sentences. <i>Here comes the bride!</i>	Present Continuous is used for: - temporary situations. <i>She is working in Paris this week.</i> - changing or developing situations. <i>Johnny is getting taller and taller.</i> - frequently repeated actions with always, constantly, continually, etc. expressing annoyance or criticism. <i>He's always asking stupid questions.</i> (Here 'always' means constantly.) - actions happening at or around the moment of speaking. <i>The baby is sleeping at the moment.</i> - fixed arrangements in the near future. <i>I'm seeing Rachel tonight.</i>	Present Perfect is used for: - recently completed actions and whose results are visible in the present. <i>He has cut the grass. (We can see the grass is now cut.)</i> - actions that started in the past and continue up to the present with stative verbs such as be, have, like, know, etc. In this case we often use <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. <i>Mrs Jones has been a secretary for ten years.</i> - experiences <i>She has tried windsurfing.</i> - actions which happened within a specific time period which is not over at the time of speaking. We use expressions such as <i>today, this morning/evening/week/month, etc.</i> <i>He has read three novels this week. (The time period – this week – is not over yet. He may read another.)</i>	Present Perfect Continuous is used: - for actions that started in the past and continue up to the present. <i>He has been washing his bike for an hour. (He started an hour ago and he's still washing it.)</i> - for past actions of certain duration having visible results or effects in the present. <i>He has been fighting. That's why he's got a black eye.</i> - to express anger, irritation, annoyance <i>Someone has been using my laptop. (annoyance)</i> Present Perfect Continuous is normally used with <i>for, since</i> or <i>how long</i> to put emphasis on duration. <i>She has been waiting since 4 o'clock.</i>
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Time expressions used with:

Present Simple	every day/week/month/year, usually, sometimes, always, rarely, never, often, in the morning/evening/afternoon, at night, on Mondays, etc.
Present Continuous	now, at the moment, at present, nowadays, today, tonight, always, still, etc.
Present Perfect & Present Perfect Continuous	just, ever, never, already, yet (negations & questions), always, how long, so far, recently, since (= from a starting point in the past), for (= over a period of time), today, this week/month, etc.

For and **since** are usually used with **Present Perfect Continuous** to emphasise the duration of an action.

1

Identify the tenses, then match them with the correct description.

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| <p>1 He runs a large travel agency.</p> <p>2 The thief enters the room and opens the safe.</p> <p>3 He has cleared out the garage.</p> <p>4 She's been practising that song for hours.</p> <p>5 He's working hard these days.</p> <p>6 He's gained a lot of weight recently.</p> <p>7 Tom's picking me up at 7 o'clock tonight.</p> <p>8 He's such a boring man who's always making a fuss about nothing.</p> <p>9 The ferry arrives at 10:00 am.</p> <p>10 You feel dizzy because you've been lying in the sun for too long!</p> | <p>a actions taking place at or around the moment of speaking; temporary situations</p> <p>b emphasis on duration of an action which began in the past and continues up to the present</p> <p>c reviews/sports commentaries/dramatic narratives</p> <p>d past actions of a certain duration having visible results/effects in the present</p> <p>e fixed arrangements in the near future</p> <p>f timetables/programmes (future meaning)</p> <p>g permanent situations or states</p> <p>h recently completed actions</p> <p>i personal experiences or changes which have happened</p> <p>j frequently repeated actions with 'always' expressing the speaker's annoyance or criticism</p> |
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2

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present forms.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I 1) am writing (**write**) on behalf of Midfield School. Every year, our students 2) (**choose**) to do a project on an environmental problem. Then, they 3) (**work**) to raise money to help solve this problem. We 4) (**recently/see**) your advertisements about protecting dolphins, so for the last few weeks we 5) (**try**) to learn about the dolphins that 6) (**live**) in the sea near our school. We 7) (**already/be**) on two boat trips and 8) (**persuade**) local fishermen to change their fishing nets because the ones they 9) (**use**) at the moment can trap dolphins. Could you please send the children some World Wildlife Fund posters to add to the presentations that they 10) (**do**) so far?

Yours faithfully,

J. Hopkins (Teacher)

3 Put the verbs in brackets in the correct present forms.

Dear Sal,
 You'll never guess where I 1) am writing (write) from. I 2) am sitting (sit) in the garden of a hotel overlooking Lake Windermere. It's so good to get away. We 3) are staying (stay) here for nearly a week now. Every morning I 4) get up (get up) at 7 o'clock and I 5) go (go) for a swim in the lake before breakfast. Since we arrived, we 6) do (do) a lot of sightseeing but we 7) don't visit (not/visit) the castle yet. We 8) watch (watch) the boats coming and going all morning and the owner of the hotel 9) suggests (just/suggest) that we take a boat trip this afternoon. There is a boat that 10) leaves (leave) at 2 o'clock that we can take to cross the lake to Wray Castle – it sounds like fun.
 We 11) are travelling (travel) to Scotland this weekend to visit relatives and then we 12) will return (return) to London next week. What 13) are you doing (you/do) in Devon since you got there? Email me soon and tell me your news.
 Mary

Stative Verbs

Stative verbs express a permanent state and don't usually have continuous forms. These are:

- **verbs of the senses** (to express involuntary actions): *feel, hear, see, smell, taste, etc.*
 (Can or could are often used with these verbs. *Turn the radio down, please. I can't hear you.*)
Look, watch and listen express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms. *John is watching* a football match on TV.
Feel and hurt can be used in either continuous or simple forms. *John feels/is feeling* worse today.
- **verbs of feelings and emotions**: *adore, appreciate (= value), detest, dislike, enjoy, forgive, hate, like, loathe, etc.* *He hates* the show they are watching on TV now. (NOT: ~~He is hating~~)
- **verbs of opinion**: *agree, believe, expect (= think), see (= understand), suppose, understand, etc.* *I believe* he is innocent. (NOT: ~~I am believing~~)
- **other verbs**: *appear (= seem), belong, concern, contain, depend, fit (= be the right shape and size for sth), have (= possess), know, mean, owe, own, possess, need, prefer, require, want, weigh, (= have the weight of), wish, keep (= continue), seem, etc.* *He wants* some more biscuits. (NOT: ~~He is wanting~~)

Some stative verbs have continuous forms but with a difference in meaning:

State	Action
<i>He thinks</i> he's really clever. (= he believes)	<i>I'm thinking</i> about his offer. (= I'm considering)
<i>This tastes</i> salty. (= It has the flavour)	<i>Why is he tasting</i> the soup? (= testing the flavour)
<i>He has</i> two houses. (= he owns; he possesses)	<i>She's having</i> lunch. (= she's eating)
<i>The silk shirt feels</i> soft. (= it has a soft texture)	<i>Ann is feeling</i> the cat's fur. (= she's touching)
<i>Do you see</i> what I mean? (= understand)	<i>I'm seeing</i> Paula tonight. (= I'm meeting)
<i>Your perfume smells</i> of apples. (= it has the smell)	<i>She is smelling</i> the roses. (= she's sniffing)
<i>I love/enjoy</i> good films. (= I like in general)	<i>I'm loving/enjoying</i> this film. (= I like specifically)
<i>It looks</i> as if it's going to rain. (= it appears)	<i>He is looking</i> at the painting. (= he's observing it)
<i>He appears</i> to be working. (= he seems to be)	<i>The singer is appearing</i> on stage tonight. (= is performing)
<i>The box is heavy. It weighs</i> a lot. (= has the weight of)	<i>He is weighing</i> the potatoes. (= is measuring the weight of)

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Tense Forms

Certain adjectives can be used with **be** in the continuous form to express a temporary characteristic. These are: *careful, foolish, kind, lazy, nice, (im)patient, (im)polite, rude, silly, etc.*
*John is usually careful, but today he's **being** careless. You're **being** very foolish. (normally used as a warning)*

4

Fill in with the **present simple** or the **present continuous**.

- 1 A: I am thinking (think) about visiting Jane this afternoon.
 B: I wouldn't bother. I (think) she's away on holiday.
- 2 A: Mr Jones (have) a telephone message from his wife.
 B: Can it wait? He (have) a business meeting and I don't want to disturb him.
- 3 A: The police (still/look) for fingerprints.
 B: It (look) as if they won't find the criminal.
- 4 A: Why (you/taste) the soup? Is there anything wrong with it?
 B: Yes, it (taste) too sweet. I think you've used sugar instead of salt.
- 5 A: Why (you/feel) the baby's forehead, Mum?
 B: I think she's got a temperature. She (feel) rather hot.
- 6 A: I (see) my boss about a pay rise this afternoon.
 B: I (see). That's why you're wearing a suit and tie.
- 7 A: Why (you/smell) the inside of your car?
 B: Because it (smell) of petrol and I want to check for leaks.

5

Underline the correct item.

- 1 John is / **is being** usually rude, but today he is / **is being** polite to his colleagues.
- 2 Ann is / **is being** usually patient, but today she is / **is being** impatient.
- 3 Sam is / **is being** rude to his mother now, but he is / **is being** normally pleasant to her.
- 4 Peter is / **is being** a kind man, but at the moment he is / **is being** selfish.
- 5 Julie is / **is being** silly at the moment, although I know she is / **is being** really very sensible.

6

Put the verbs in brackets into the **present simple** or the **present continuous**.

- Mark: Hi Ann! What 1) are you doing (you/do) at the moment?
 Ann: Hello Mark! I 2) (try) to finish my project, but my little brother 3) (keep) interrupting me.
 Mark: Oh really?
 Ann: Yes, he 4) (always/ask) me to help him with his homework!
 I 5) (get) tired of it.
 Mark: I see. Look, a few of us 6) (meet) at Café Nora for coffee later.
 7) (you/want) to join us?
 Ann: Well, my dance class 8) (start) at 8 o'clock. What time 9) (you/go) to the café?
 Mark: About 6 o'clock.
 Ann: That's great! My class is nearby and I certainly 10) (need) a break. See you at six.

7 Fill in: yet, already, since, how long or ever.

- 1 I don't think Frank has ... *ever* ... been to a live concert.
- 2 I haven't seen Louise Jeff's wedding last year.
- 3 I don't know Jack's been working on that project, but it seems like weeks.
- 4 Mr Louis hasn't rung me back about the contract
- 5 Pam has finished her test and I've only done half of mine.



Listen and repeat. Then act out.

Have gone to / Have been to / Have been in



She **has gone to** Madrid. (= She's on her way to Madrid or she's there. She hasn't come back yet.)
 She **has been to** Paris once. (= She has visited Paris; she is not there now. She has come back.)
 She **has been in** Berlin for two years. (= She lives in Berlin now.)

8 Fill in: has/have gone to, has/have been to/in in the correct form.

- 1 I ... *have been to* ... New York several times, but I ... *haven't been to* ... Atlanta.
- 2 My boss Lisbon for a week, so I'm doing some of his work for him.
- 3 We Milan for very long, so we don't know it very well yet.
- 4 Martin isn't here. He the library to get some books.
- 5 I that gallery twice but I haven't seen the painting you mentioned.

9 Fill in with the present perfect or the present perfect continuous.

Hi Sam,

How are things? I 1) *haven't heard* (not/hear) from you in a while. What 2) (you/be) up to these past few weeks? 3) (you/finish) your exams yet? Mine start next week and I'm already nervous. Even though I 4) (study) pretty hard since May, it still feels like I have a lot to learn. Oh! Guess what! I 5) (change) my mind about getting a job when I leave school. I 6) (decide) that I want to go to university and study veterinary science instead. Everyone's really surprised, but I 7) (think) about it for a while. As you know, I 8) (work) as a volunteer at an animal shelter for the past two years and I 9) (realise) that helping animals is what I want to do with my life. What about you? 10) (you/think) any more about coming to visit me in August?

Brigitte