

Grammar

Present forms

- 1** Complete the sentences about learning languages. Use the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs.
- I never have any problems learning vocabulary, but _____ English grammar easy at all. *I / not find*
 - Our teacher regularly sends us a link to a different language app. This month, _____ a puzzle app. *we / try*
 - The students in that room are very noisy! What _____? *they / do*
 - My classmate is always very organized and _____ her homework on the bus home after class. *she / do*
 - "Why has your brother got his headphones on?" "Oh, _____ a podcast about English pronunciation." *he / listen to*
 - I've finished all my main subject courses, so _____ anything except English this year. *I / not study*
 - Wow, you're learning Chinese! _____ much opportunity to practise speaking? *you / have*
 - Our language students are placed with local families, so they get a lot of practice and generally _____ very quickly. *they / learn*
- 2** Choose the correct option to complete the sentences about people's experiences.
- I'm / I've been* an engineer since 2018.
 - I finished my degree last year and since then *I'm looking / I've been looking* for a job.
 - How many courses *have you enrolled / have you been enrolling* on?
 - I don't live / I haven't lived* in Stockholm for a couple of years.

- I work / I've been working* at the café since I left school.
 - I'm focusing / I've been focusing* on my career for too long.
 - I've finished / I've been finishing* my exams at last.
 - Since arriving in Quito, *I have / I've had* three different jobs.
- 3** Read the pairs of sentences and write a new sentence using the words in brackets. Use the present continuous, present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous, as appropriate.
- My first Spanish classes were in primary school. I still go to classes now. (*learn / a child*)

 - I don't have time to go to classes this year. I'm a student on an online course. (*study / from home*)

 - I started this degree two years ago. I will finish it next year. (*do / two years*)

 - There are six assignments on this course. I'm starting the last one now. (*finish / five*)

 - Our college has an open day every year. My class is involved this year. (*take part in*)

 - Our student website was out of date. The information is correct now. (*update / website*)

 - I have an important exam next week. I began my revision five days ago. (*revise / my exam*)

- 4 Choose the correct form to complete the paragraph about film subtitles.

Over the last year, ¹I watch / I've watched a lot of films in their original language, both at the cinema and online. ²I prefer / I've been preferring this to dubbed films. Up until now, at home, ³I'm turning on / I've turned on the English subtitles. If the film is in a language that ⁴I don't learn / I'm not learning it's the only way to understand anything! But recently, ⁵I'm experimenting / I've been experimenting with reading the subtitles in the film's original language. I'm sure ⁶I double / I've doubled my vocabulary in the languages that I already ⁷speak / am speaking reasonably well, like French and Italian. So now ⁸I'm looking / I've looked for films to watch in Portuguese, because ⁹I'm trying / I've been trying to learn it for about ten years and I still ¹⁰don't get / haven't got beyond elementary level!

Look at the Learning to learn box. Then do the task.

LEARNING TO LEARN: GRAMMAR

How to avoid typical mistakes

Typical mistakes are the kind of mistakes where lots of learners make the same errors. Your first language usually influences these mistakes in grammar. Here's how to avoid making these mistakes.

- 1 Be aware of them. Ask your teacher which mistakes are common and check you know the correct forms.
- 2 Write a memorable sentence with the correct form of the mistake so that you can remember it easily. For example, if you use the present continuous instead of the present simple, you can memorize a sentence such as *I live in London not Las Vegas*.
- 3 Remember to check for these mistakes in your writing and speaking. You can add the mistakes to a list of things you always check after you have written a text. In speaking, try to listen to yourself as you speak so that you can correct your typical mistakes at the time.

Look again at Grammar Exercises 1 and 2. Did you make any mistakes? Were they mistakes you always make? Write a memorable sentence for any mistakes you identified to help you remember and use the correct form.

Pronunciation

Understanding weak forms of auxiliary verbs

- 1 2.1 Listen to the sentences. Do you hear the full form (F) or the weak form (W) of the auxiliary verbs *am*, *have* and *been*?

- 1 I am renting a flat in the city centre.
- 2 I have been living here for a couple of weeks.
- 3 I have been lucky to find a nice place.
- 4 I have found a great language school near me.
- 5 I am hoping to enrol on a course soon.
- 6 I have been reviewing my old study notes.

Listening



- 1 2.2 Listen to the podcast about people and languages and complete the notes.

	live in	first language(s)	other languages	languages used at home
Jordi:				
Chen:				

- 2 2.2 Listen again and complete the sentences.

- 1 _____ her recent book, there's no such thing as speaking with no accent.
- 2 _____, we met in New York.
- 3 _____, I have to admit that Chen knows a lot more Spanish than I do Chinese.
- 4 _____ the interesting part – what happens at home?
- 5 _____, we speak in our first languages to the kids.