

UNIT

1

Present Progressive and Simple Present

Grammar in Context

BEFORE YOU READ

👂 Look at the cartoons. What are the people doing? How do they feel? Read this article about cross-cultural communication.

WHAT'S YOUR CROSS-CULTURAL IQ?

Are you **living** in your native country or in another country? **Do** you ever **travel** abroad? **Do** you **understand** the misunderstandings below?



SITUATION 1

Tomás **is visiting** Claude. Claude **looks** very surprised. In Tomás's culture, people **often visit** without calling first. But in Claude's culture, people **don't do** that. They **always check** with their friends before they **come over**.



SITUATION 2

Nicole and Sheila **are saying** hello and **kissing**. They **are** both **feeling** very uncomfortable. In Nicole's culture, people **usually kiss** twice, once on each cheek. In Sheila's culture, people **don't kiss** more than once.

AFTER YOU READ

Complete each sentence with the correct name.

1. _____ is visiting without calling first.
2. _____ is surprised to have a visitor.
3. _____ is kissing the other woman twice.
4. _____ doesn't expect a second kiss.

Now circle the correct answer for your own culture.

In my culture . . .

5. People usually call / don't call before visiting.
6. When people say hello, they don't kiss / kiss.

Grammar Presentation

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Affirmative Statements			
Subject	Be	Base Form of Verb + -ing	
I	am*	traveling	now.
You	are		
He She It	is		
We You They	are		

SIMPLE PRESENT

Affirmative Statements		
Subject		Verb
I	often	travel.
You		
He		travels.
She		
It		
We		travel.
You		
They		

*For contractions of *I am*, *you are*, etc., see Appendix 26 on page A-12.

Negative Statements				
Subject	Be	Not	Base Form of Verb + -ing	
I	am	not	traveling	now.
He	is			
We	are			

Negative Statements				
Subject	Do	Not	Base Form of Verb	
I	do	not	travel	often.
He	does			
We	do			

(continued)

Yes / No Questions			
Be	Subject	Base Form of Verb + -ing	
Is	he	traveling	now?

Short Answers		
Yes,	he	is.
No,		isn't.

Wh- Questions				
Wh- Word	Be	Subject	Base Form of Verb + -ing	
Where	are	you	traveling	now?

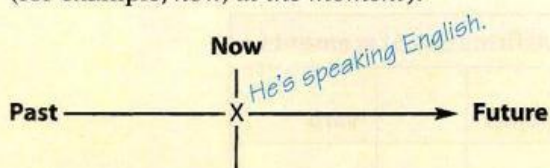
Yes / No Questions			
Do	Subject	Base Form of Verb	
Does	he	travel	often?

Short Answers		
Yes,	he	does.
No,		doesn't.

Wh- Questions				
Wh- Word	Do	Subject		Base Form of Verb
Where	do	you	usually	travel?

GRAMMAR NOTES

1. Use the **present progressive** to describe something that is happening right now (for example, *now*, *at the moment*).



The present progressive is often used to show that the action is temporary.

- Tomás **is visiting** Claude.
- He's **speaking** English *right now*.

- I'm **staying** with friends *at the moment*, but I plan to leave soon.

2. Use the **simple present** to describe what regularly happens (for example, *every day*, *usually*, *always*).

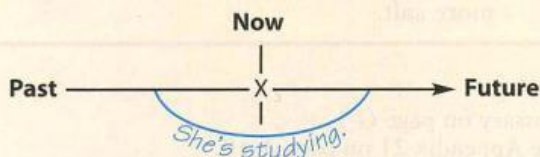


Use the simple present to talk about scientific facts.

- Tomás **talks** to Claude *every day*.
- He **usually wears** jeans.
- He **always speaks** Spanish at home.

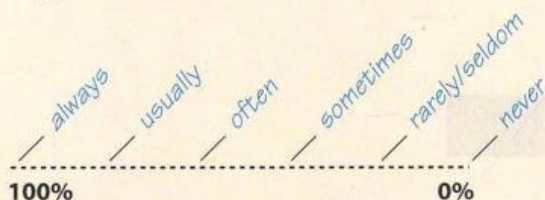
- Stress **causes** high blood pressure.
- Water **boils** at 212°F (100°C).

3. Use the **present progressive** to describe something that is happening in the extended present time (for example, *nowadays, these days, this month, this year*), even if it's not happening at the moment of speaking.



- We're **studying** U.S. customs *this month*.
- Laura's **studying** in France *this year*.
- Are you **studying** hard *these days*?

4. Use the **simple present** with adverbs of frequency to express how often something happens.



- **BE CAREFUL!** Adverbs of frequency usually go before the main verb, but they go after the verb *be*.

- In Spain women **always kiss** on both cheeks.
- In France women **often kiss** on both cheeks.
- We **rarely stand** very close to each other.
- In China children **never call** adults by their first names.

- They **never come** late.
- They **are never** late.

5. Use the **simple present** with most non-action verbs. Do not use the present progressive—even when the verb describes a situation that exists at the moment of speaking.

Non-action verbs usually describe states or situations but not actions. They are used to:

- a. express **emotions** (*hate, like, love, want, feel, fear, trust*)

USAGE NOTE: Unlike other verbs that express emotion, *feel* is often used in the progressive form.

- b. describe **mental states** (*know, remember, believe, think [= believe], understand*)

- c. show **possession** (*have, own, possess, belong*)

- d. describe **senses and perceptions** (*hear, see, smell, taste, feel, notice, seem, look [= seem], be, appear, sound*)

- Jane **wants** to go home *now*.
NOT Jane ~~is wanting~~ to go home now.

- We **like** Claude a lot.
- Ricki **feels** homesick. OR
- Ricki **is feeling** homesick.

- I **know** a lot of U.S. customs now.
- Ari **remembers** your number.

- Cesar **has** two brothers.
- Some students **own** cars.

- I **hear** the telephone.
- Dina **seems** tired.

(continued)

6. **BE CAREFUL!** Some verbs that describe senses and perceptions such as *taste*, *smell*, *feel*, and *look* can have both a non-action and an action meaning.

NON-ACTION

- The soup **tastes** good. Try some.

ACTION

- She's **tasting** the soup to see if it needs more salt.

Reference Notes

For definitions and examples of **grammar terms**, see Glossary on page G-1.

For **spelling rules** on forming the **present progressive**, see Appendix 21 on page A-10.

For **spelling rules** on forming the third person singular of the **simple present**, see Appendix 20 on page A-9.

For **pronunciation rules** for the **simple present**, see Appendix 29 on page A-14.

For a list of **non-action verbs**, see Appendix 2 on page A-2.

For use of the **present progressive** and the **simple present** to talk about the **future**, see Unit 6.

Focused Practice

1

DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR

Read these journal entries by Brian, a Canadian summer exchange student studying in Argentina. Circle all the verbs that describe what is happening **now**. Underline the verbs that describe what **regularly** happens.

JUNE 28: I'm sitting in a seat 30,000 feet above the Earth en route to Argentina! I usually have dinner at this time, but right now I have an awful headache from all the excitement. My seatmate is eating my food. I guess it's good. She looks happy.

JUNE 30: It's 7:30 P.M. My host parents are still working. Carlos, my father, works at home. My little brother, Ricardo, is cute. He looks (and acts) a lot like Bobby. Right now, he's looking over my shoulder and trying to read my journal.

JULY 4: The weather is cold here. I usually spend the first weekend of July at the beach. Today I'm walking around in a heavy sweater.

AUGUST 6: I usually feel great in the evening because we take long naps in the afternoon, but tonight I feel really tired.

AUGUST 25: I'm feeling very comfortable here now—but it's almost time to go home! My host parents usually cook a light dinner, but tonight they're cooking a special dinner for me. I miss them already!

2

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Grammar Notes 1-2

Look at Brian's schedule in Argentina. He usually has a regular schedule but today is different. Complete the sentences below. Use the present progressive or the simple present. Choose between affirmative and negative forms.

7:00-8:00	run in the park	get ready for a field trip
8:30-12:30	attend class	go on a field trip to the museum
1:00-2:00	eat lunch	
2:00-3:00	take a nap	work on the family web page
3:00-5:00	work in the cafeteria	
5:00-6:30	do homework	call home at 5:00 sharp today!
6:30-8:30	play tennis	watch a video with Eva
8:30	have dinner	
9:30-10:00	write letters	take a walk with the family
10:00-10:30	take a shower	do homework

- Brian always runs in the park early in the morning, but today he is getting ready for a field trip.
- Brian usually _____ between 8:30 and 12:30, but today he _____.
- He always _____ between 1:00 and 2:00.
- It's 1:30. He _____.
- He normally _____ after lunch, but today he _____.
- Every day from 3:00 to 5:00, he _____.
- It's 5:00, but he _____ now. He _____ instead.
- It's 6:45, but he _____.
- He _____.
- It's 8:30. Brian _____.
- He always _____ at 8:30.
- After dinner, Brian usually _____, but tonight he _____.
- It's 10:15, but he _____.
- He _____.

3 CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Grammar Notes 1-6

Some students are talking outside of a classroom. Complete their conversations. Choose between the simple present and the present progressive forms of the verbs in parentheses.

A. LI-WU: Hi, Paulo. What are you doing?

1. (do you do / are you doing)

PAULO: Oh, I _____ for class to begin.

2. (wait / 'm waiting)

LI-WU: How are you? You _____

3. (seem / 're seeming)

a little down.

PAULO: I'm just tired. I _____ evenings

4. (work / 'm working)

this semester. Hey, is that your teacher over there?

LI-WU: Yes. She _____ to one of my

5. (talks / 's talking)

classmates.

PAULO: What's wrong? He _____

6. (doesn't look / 's not looking)

at her. He _____ uncomfortable.

7. (seems / 's seeming)

LI-WU: Oh. That _____ anything. In Taiwan it's not respectful to

8. (doesn't mean / isn't meaning)

look directly at your teacher.



B. TARO: There's Miguel. He _____ to Luisa.

1. (talks / 's talking)

MARISA: Yes. They _____ a class together

2. (take / 're taking)

this semester.

TARO: They _____ very close to each

3. (stand / 're standing)

other. _____ they

4. (Do you think / Are you thinking)

?

5. (date / 're dating)

MARISA: No. I _____ it

6. (don't think / 'm not thinking)

anything special. I

7. (means / 's meaning)

from Costa Rica, and people

8. (come / 'm coming)

that close to each other.

9. (usually stand / are usually standing)



4 MORE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Grammar Notes 1–6

Other students are talking outside of a classroom. Complete their conversations. Use the simple present or the present progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

- A. RASHA: There's Hans. Why is he walking
1. (walk)
 so fast? Class starts at 9:00.
2. (start)
 He still has 10 minutes!
3. (have)
 CLAUDE: He always walks fast. I think Swiss
4. (walk)
 people often appear to be in a hurry.
5. (appear)



- B. YOKO: Isn't that Sergio and Luis? Why do they
1. (shake)
shake hands? They already
2. (know)
know each other!
 LI-JING: In Brazil, men shake hands every time
3. (shake)
 they meet.
4. (meet)
 YOKO: Do women shake hands too?
5. (shake)



5 CULTURE SHOCK!

Grammar Notes 1–6

Complete the following paragraph. Use the correct form of the verbs in the box.

cause feel go live ~~make~~ travel

New food, new customs, new routines—they all make international travel
1.
 interesting. But they also cause culture shock for many travelers. Do you
2.
 now feel or go in a culture different from your own? If so, why
3. 4.
do you live so good (or so bad)? Some experts say that we often
5.
travel through four stages of culture shock:
6.

Honeymoon Stage:	In the first weeks everything seems great.
Rejection Stage:	You have negative feelings about the new culture.
Adjustment Stage:	Things are getting better these days.
Adaptation Stage:	You are finally comfortable in the new culture.

Take the quiz in Exercise 6 and see what stage you are in.

6 QUIZ

Grammar Notes 1-6

Complete the following statements using the correct form of the verbs in the box. Then check the statements that are true for you **now**.

annoy	feel	improve	live	love
make	think	treat	understand	want

- ☐ 1. I love it here!
- ☐ 2. People always _____ me very kindly.
- ☐ 3. The customs here often _____ me.
- ☐ 4. I _____ here now, but I _____ I'll stay.
(negative)
- ☐ 5. I _____ to go home!
- ☐ 6. My language skills _____ a lot each month.
- ☐ 7. I _____ a lot of new friends these days.
- ☐ 8. I still _____ everything, but I _____ at home here.
(negative)

To check your Quiz results, go to page 92.

7 EDITING

Read this student's journal. There are eleven mistakes in the use of the present progressive or simple present. The first mistake is already corrected. Find and correct ten more.

It's 12.30 and I'm sitting in the library right now. My classmates are eating lunch together, but I'm not hungry yet. At home, we eat never this early. Today our journal topic is culture shock. It's a good topic for me right now because I'm being pretty homesick. I miss my old routine. At home we always are eating a big meal at 2.00 in the afternoon. Then we rest. But here in Toronto I'm having a 3.00 conversation class. Every day I almost fall asleep in class, and my teacher ask me, "Are you bored?" Of course I'm not bored. I just need my afternoon nap! This class always is fun. This semester we work on a project with video cameras. My team is filming groups of people from different cultures. We are analyze "social distance." That means how close to each other these people stand. According to my new watch, it's 12:55, so I leave now for my 1:00 class. Teachers here really aren't liking tardiness!

Communication Practice

8 LISTENING

🔊 Listen to an interview with a new foreign student. Then listen again and check the things the student usually does and the things she is doing now or these days.

	Usually	Now or These Days
1. speak English	☐	☒
2. speak Spanish	☐	☐
3. live in a small town	☐	☐
4. live in a big city	☐	☐
5. walk slowly	☐	☐
6. wear a watch	☐	☐
7. study computer science	☐	☐

9 GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Walk around your classroom. Ask your classmates questions. Find someone who . . .

	Name(s)
• likes visiting foreign countries	_____
• isn't wearing a watch	_____
• speaks more than two languages	_____
• is studying something besides English	_____
• doesn't watch sports on TV	_____
• is planning to travel this year	_____
• _____ (add your own)	_____

Example: A: Do you like visiting foreign countries?

B: Yes, I do. What about you?

Report back to the class.

Example: Tania and José like visiting foreign countries.

10 WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Work in pairs. Look at the photographs. Describe them. What's happening? Discuss possible explanations for each situation. Compare your answers with those of your classmates.

Example: A: He's pointing. He looks angry.
B: Maybe he's just explaining something.



11 QUESTIONABLE QUESTIONS?

Work in small groups. Look at the questions. In your culture, which questions are appropriate to ask someone you just met? Which are not appropriate? Compare your choices with those of your classmates.

- How old are you?
- How much rent do you pay?
- Are you married?
- What do you do?
- What are you studying?
- Where do you live?

12 WRITING

Write a paragraph about a new experience you are having. Maybe you are living in a new country, taking a new class, or working at a new job. Describe the situation. How is it different from what you usually do? How do you feel in the situation?

Example: I usually live at home with my parents, but this month I'm living with my aunt and uncle. Everything seems different. My aunt . . .

13 ON THE INTERNET

 Weather often affects what people in different cultures do. Do a search on **weather** for a place you know well. Find out what the weather is now. Then compare it to what the weather usually is this time of year. Tell your classmates about the weather and what people usually do in this weather.

Example: In Haiti it usually rains this time of year, but today it's not raining. It rains so often in Haiti that people usually ignore it. Children often play outside in the rain.