3 Grammar

Present Simple vs Present Progressive

- *When my friends **come** round, we usually **play** computer games. But today, we **'re playing** football in the garden.*
- ***A: Are** you **coming** with us to the stadium? The match **starts** at 3.00.*
  ***B:** No, sorry, I **don't want** to come. I **hate** football.*

NOTE

STATIVE VERBS (see, like, love, hate, want, need, understand, know, etc.) are **not** usually used in the Present Progressive.

PRESENT SIMPLE
AFFIRMATIVE
I work He/She/It works We/You/They work
NEGATIVE
I don't work He/She/It doesn't work We/You/They don't work
QUESTIONS
Do I work? Does he/she/it work? Do we/you/they work?

We use the Present Simple:
• for permanent states. *Ben lives in London.* • for habits or actions that happen regularly. *We always have breakfast at eight.* • for general truths. *The earth goes round the sun.* • for an action that takes place according to a schedule. *The train leaves at nine o'clock.*

We use the Present Progressive:
• for temporary states. *I'm taking driving lessons this month.* • for actions happening at the moment of speaking. *Lucy is sleeping now.* • for future arrangements. *We're flying to Zanzibar tonight.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE
AFFIRMATIVE
I am working He/She/It is working We/You/They are working
NEGATIVE
I 'm not working He/She/It isn't working We/You/They aren't working
QUESTIONS
Am I working? Is he/she/it working? Are we/you/they working?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TIME EXPRESSIONS PRESENT SIMPLE
usually, always, often, etc. every day/week, etc. in the morning/spring, etc. on Mondays / Monday morning, etc. at the weekend, etc. once/twice/three times, etc. a week/day, etc.



PRESENT PROGRESSIVE
now, at the moment, today, these days, this week/year, etc. tonight, tomorrow, etc. next week/year, etc.

Stative Verbs

The following verbs are **not** normally used in the **Present Progressive**. They are called **stative verbs.**

- see, hear, smell, etc.
- like, love, hate, want, need, etc.
- think, understand, know, etc.
- be, have, cost, etc.

NOTE:
Some **stative verbs** can be used in progressive tenses, but with a different meaning.

see
I'm seeing my doctor tomorrow.

think of/about
I'm thinking of buying a car.

have (with words like *lunch, breakfast, shower, party*)
She's having a shower at the moment.

Complete with the Present Simple or the Present Progressive of the verbs in brackets.

1. Gavin rarely _____ (use) his computer to surf the Net. He usually _____ (play) computer games. He _____ (play) a basketball game at the moment.
2. **A:** Can you help me with this maths question?
   I _____ (not understand) it.
   B: In a minute. I _____ (help) Michael now.

C. Make sentences using the Present Simple or Present Progressive.

1. Joan / usually / play / basketball / at the weekend.
   _____
2. Dina / never treat / her teachers / with respect.
   _____
3. Louise's / important match / start / at two o'clock.
   _____



4. Alex / not walk / to school / at the moment.
   _____
5. On Mondays / Tim / often / hang out with / Harry and Kevin / after school.
   _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D. Circle the correct options.

1. I **don't want / am not wanting** to play computer games today.
2. Do you **understand / understanding** all the questions?
3. Are you **seeing / see** Mr Oliver later?
4. I **am knowing / know** Ian – he goes to my school.
5. Harriet **enjoys / is enjoying** her hobby at the moment.



E. Complete the dialogue with the phrases a-e.



A: Hi, Greta. (1) _____

B: Not much. What about you?

A: (2) _____ I need some help with science. Especially physics.

B: I'd like to help you. (3) _____

A: That's all right. (4) _____

B: Yes, but can we meet Lynne and Rosie in the park after that?

A: Sure! (5) _____

a. I'm having a lesson with my tutor in 20 minutes.
b. Except it's difficult for me too!
c. Can you remind me to do a practice test on Saturday?
d. Why not?
e. What are you up to?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Listen

Listen to the dialogue and complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

1. Brian and Rosie have a _____ test on Friday.
2. _____ didn't get a good mark in the last test.
3. The _____ is often crowded at five o'clock.
4. Brian and Rosie are meeting in the _____ to study.

Speak

Talk in pairs. Pretend to ring your partner and discuss your plans for today. Use the ideas given and some of the phrases in the boxes.

Do you want to...?
Do you fancy...?
How about...?
Let's...

sports	cinema	party	meal	shopping

Hi, how's it going?
Not bad.
What are you up to?
Nothing much.
Do you want to...?
...

Sure, why not?	Sorry, I have other plans.
Of course. I'd love to.	I'm afraid I'm busy.
Sounds brilliant!	Maybe some other time.
That would be great.	No, thanks.
How could I say no?	I'd like to come but...
	I'm afraid I can't make it because...

LIVEWORKSHEETS