

# UNIT 1

## PRESENT SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS



### Present simple

- The present simple has two forms.

I, You, We, They	get, study, watch, go	
He, She, It	+ -s	gets
	or + -es	watches, goes
	or -y+ -ies	studies

- We use *do/does not* + infinitive to make negatives.

I, You, We, They	don't get, study, watch, go
He, She, It	doesn't get, study, watch, go

- We use *do/does* + infinitive to make questions.

Do	I, you, we, they	get, study, watch, go?
Does	he, she, it	get, study, watch, go?

We use the present simple for:

- things that happen regularly.  
*I walk to school with a friend every day.*  
*My sister doesn't go to the sports club very often.*  
*What do you do on Sundays?*
- facts.  
*We live near my grandparents.*  
*The weather doesn't get very cold here.*
- verbs called **state verbs** (we don't normally use these verbs in a continuous form) which describe what we think or feel.  
*believe, hate, know, like, love, mean, need, own, prefer, understand, want*  
*Mike knows the answer to your question.*  
*Alice doesn't understand what you want.*  
*I don't remember your address.*  
*What does this word mean?*  
*Does your teacher own a sports car?*

### Practice

- 1** Complete the sentences. Use the present simple form of the verbs.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / prefer) volleyball or basketball?
- Angelo never \_\_\_\_\_ (choose) sandwiches for lunch because he \_\_\_\_\_ (not like) bread.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) our cousins very often because they \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in America.
- Where \_\_\_\_\_ (he / go) after school?
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to go home.
- Sara \_\_\_\_\_ (not play) football but she \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) it on TV.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (he / know) the time?
- Emma \_\_\_\_\_ (study) French.

### Present continuous

- We use *am, are, is + -ing* to make the present continuous.

I	am ('m)	playing.
You, We, They	are ('re)	working.
He, She, It	is ('s)	helping.

- We use *'m not, aren't, isn't* to make negatives.

I	'm not	working.
They	aren't	helping.
She	isn't	playing.

- We use *am, are, is* to make questions.

Am	I	helping?
Are	you	working?
Is	he	playing?

We use the present continuous for:

- something that is happening now or around now.  
*We're doing our homework.* (= We're in the middle of it now.)
- temporary situations.  
*I'm helping my dad in his office this week.* (= I don't help him every week.)
- future plans.  
*They're playing table tennis after school.* (= They plan to play table tennis.)

### Practice

- 2** Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous form of the verbs.

- I \_\_\_\_\_ (cycle) to the beach with some friends next weekend.
- My brother \_\_\_\_\_ (not watch) sport on TV this week because of his exams.
- A:** What \_\_\_\_\_ (you do) at the moment?  
**B:** We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a nature film because we \_\_\_\_\_ (study) insects at school now.

- 3** Choose the correct form of the verbs.

- <sup>1</sup> I sit / I'm sitting on the bus with my friends.
- <sup>2</sup> We go / We're going to the match in London. Our team <sup>3</sup> plays / is playing in the final this afternoon, so we're very excited. Our team <sup>4</sup> doesn't play / isn't playing in the final very often, but this season <sup>5</sup> they play / they're playing really well.
- <sup>6</sup> I believe / I'm believing they can win. After the match <sup>7</sup> we have / we're having dinner in London.
- <sup>8</sup> I want / I'm wanting to go to a restaurant near the stadium but <sup>9</sup> they get / they're getting very busy on match days, so <sup>10</sup> we eat / we're eating at a place in another part of the city.

### 1 Match the examples to the rules.

- 1 Right now, I'm **taking part** in a competition for young game designers.
- 2 In a few months, I'm **going** on a kayaking trip with my cousin.
- 3 My friends and family **say** I'm a cheerful person.
- 4 This term, I'm **having** tennis lessons.
- 5 I **live** with my parents.

We use the present simple to talk about:

- a facts.
- b something that happens regularly.

We use the present continuous for:

- c something that is happening right now or around now.
- d temporary situations.
- e future plans.

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### 2 Complete the sentences with the present simple or continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) home at five o'clock every day.
- 2 Mum \_\_\_\_\_ (work) late this week.
- 3 Look at Dan. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not concentrate).
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) anything interesting next weekend?
- 5 She \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the guitar and the piano.
- 6 He always \_\_\_\_\_ (go) swimming on Saturdays.

### 3 Look at Exercises 1 and 2. Are these time words and phrases used with the present simple (PS) or present continuous (PC)?

at the moment / right now **PC**  
 never, sometimes, always  
 every day/week/year  
 this month/term/week  
 later, tomorrow, tonight  
 on Saturdays, at weekends  
 next week/weekend/month

### 4 Write six sentences about you. Use the time words and phrases in Exercise 3.

*Right now, I'm having an English lesson.*

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### 5 Read the information about the verbs. Check the meaning of the verbs you don't know.

We don't use some verbs in continuous forms. These verbs are called **stative verbs** and include: *believe, hate, know, like, love, mean, need, own, prefer, understand, want.*

*I don't understand this question.*

**NOT** *I'm not understanding this question.*

### 6 Complete the sentences with the positive or negative form of the verbs in Exercise 5. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 0 My uncle owns three cars.
- 1 Ruby's very friendly. We really \_\_\_\_\_ her.
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ how old he is. He looks about 14.
- 3 What \_\_\_\_\_ this word \_\_\_\_\_?
- 4 I'm feeling miserable today. I \_\_\_\_\_ cold weather.
- 5 You're speaking too quickly and I \_\_\_\_\_ you.

### 7 Choose the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 We *have* / *'re having* problems with the computers at the moment.
- 2 I *need* / *'m needing* some new shoes.
- 3 I *write* / *'m writing* to you about a trip we are planning in November.
- 4 Tonight she *goes* / *'s going* to the cinema with some friends.
- 5 This term I *have* / *'m having* some extra maths lessons.
- 6 I *never forget* / *'m never forgetting* my homework.