

Present Tenses

Present simple; present continuous; state verbs; the verb *to be*

1 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- 1 **A** My brother lives with us until he can find a flat of his own.
B My brother is living with us until he can find a flat of his own.
- 2 **A** Megan goes to Hong Kong every January.
B Megan's going to Hong Kong every January.
- 3 **A** I don't have enough money for a holiday this year.
B I'm not having a long holiday for a holiday this year.
- 4 **A** Everyone needs a break from work sometimes.
B Everyone is needing a break from work sometimes.
- 5 **A** What period of history do you study this term?
B What period of history are you studying this term?
- 6 **A** The team manager looks bad-tempered in public, but he's always being very kind to young players.
B The team manager looks bad-tempered in public, but he's always very kind to young players.

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

- 1 My father **knows** (*know*) all about mending cars, but nothing about bicycles.
- 2 This pie _____ (*smell*) a bit odd. What's in it?
- 3 I _____ (*like*) the jacket of this suit, but unfortunately the trousers _____
(*not fit*) me anymore.
- 4 You're very quiet this evening. What _____ (*think*) about?
- 5 Who _____ (*be*) that man? Why _____ (*your sister/be*) so rude to him?
She _____ (*have*) such beautiful manners normally.

3 Fill in the gaps with the present simple or present continuous forms of the verbs.

- 1 **Alex:** Why **are you wearing** (*you / wear*) my coat?
Ben: Oh, I'm sorry. It _____ (*look*) like mine in this light.
- 2 **Carl:** I _____ (*have*) no idea what this sentence _____
(*mean*). Can you translate it?
Donna: No, sorry. I _____ (*not understand*) it either.

- 3 **Eddie:** _____ (see) those old men near the door? They _____
(look) at us very strangely.
- Fergus:** Yes you're right _____ (you / recognise) them from anywhere?
- Eddie:** No, but they certainly _____ (seem) to know us. They _____
(come) across to speak to us.
- 4 **Gina:** What _____ (you / do) in the kitchen? Our guests _____
(wait) for their dessert, and you _____ (get) in my way!
- Hamid:** I just _____ (want) to be somewhere quiet for a while. Everyone
_____ (be) so noisy this evening! I _____ (not know) why -
it's very unusual.

4 Complete the email using the present simple or present continuous of the verbs.

behave	come	cost	eat	enjoy	feel	have	like	love	pay
realise	say	seem	serve	show	smile	stay	take	visit	

Dear Stephanie,

How are you? We're fine. Our trip round the States (1) is going well and we
(2) _____ ourselves a lot. One good surprise is that things (3) _____
less here than back home. For example, this weekend we (4) _____ in a motel beside
a lake and we (5) _____ only \$65 per night for a room with a beautiful view.

The only thing we (6) _____ (not) much is the food. Restaurants (7) _____
dinner rather early. We (8) _____ (never) at six o'clock at home so we
(9) _____ (not) hungry then and American portions (10) _____ very big to
us. Apart from that, we (11) _____ a wonderful time. We (12) _____ lots of
interesting little towns and we absolutely (13) _____ the scenery.

People here (14) _____ in a very friendly manner towards strangers. All the shop
assistants (15) _____ at us, and everyone (16) _____ 'Have a nice day!'
At home, the TV (17) _____ (always) us bad news stories about the States, but in fact,
when you (18) _____
here, you (19) _____
it's a really great place.
We (20) _____ lots
of photos to show you.

Much love,
Mick and Mary

