

## Present simple and continuous, action and non-action verbs

### present simple: I live, he works, etc. 1.10

1. I work in a bank. She studies Russian. We don't have any pets. Jack doesn't wear glasses. Where do you live? Does your brother have a car?
2. She usually has cereal for breakfast. I'm never late for work. We only eat out about once a month.

1. We use the present simple for things that are always true or happen regularly.
  - Remember the spelling rules for third person singular, e.g. lives, studies, watches.
  - Use ASI (Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) or QUASI (Question word, Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) to help you with word order in questions. Do you know David? What time does the film start?
2. We often use the present simple with adverbs of frequency, e.g. usually, never, or expressions of frequency, e.g. every day, once a week.
  - Adverbs of frequency go before the main verb, and after be.
  - Expressions of frequency usually go at the end of the sentence or verb phrase.

### present continuous: be+ verb+ -ing 1.11

A Who are you waiting for?

B I'm waiting for a friend.

A Is your sister still going out with Adam?

B No, they broke up. She isn't going out with anyone at the moment.

- We use the present continuous (not the present simple) for actions in progress at the time of speaking, e.g. things that are happening now or around now. These are normally temporary, not habitual actions.
- Remember the spelling rules, e.g. living, studying, getting.
- We also use the present continuous for future arrangements.

## action and non-action verbs

A What are you cooking?

B I'm making pasta.

A Great! I love pasta.

A What are you looking for?

B My car keys.

A I'll help you in a moment.

B But I need them now!

- Verbs which describe actions, e.g. cook, make, can be used in the present simple or continuous. I'm making the lunch. I usually make the lunch at the weekend.
- Verbs which describe states or feelings (not actions), e.g. love, need, be, are non-action verbs. They are not usually used in the present continuous, even if we mean 'now'.
- Common non-action verbs are agree, be, believe, belong, depend, forget, hate, hear, know, like, love, matter, mean, need, prefer, realize, recognize, remember, seem, suppose.

### Verbs that can be both action and non-action

A few verbs have an action and a non-action meaning, e.g. have and think. I have a cat now. = possession (non-action)

I can't talk now. I'm having lunch. = an action

I think this music's great. = opinion (non-action)

What are you thinking about? = an action

b Complete the sentences with the present simple or present continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

We don't go to Chinese restaurants very often. (not go)

1 These days, most children ..... too many fizzy drinks.  
(have)

2 ..... you ..... any vitamins at the moment?  
(take)

- 3 Don't eat that spinach if you ..... it. (not like)
- 4 ..... your boyfriend ..... how to cook fish? (know)
- 5 We ..... takeaway pizzas during the week. (not get)
- 6 What ..... your mother .....? It smells great! (make)
- 7 You look sad. What ..... you ..... about? (think)
- 8 The diet in my country ..... worse. (get)
- 9 How often ..... you ..... seafood? (eat)
- 10 I ..... usually ..... fish. (not cook)

c Choose the correct form, present simple or continuous.

- 1 Come on, let's order. The waiter **comes** / **is coming**.
- 2 Kate **doesn't want** / **isn't wanting** to have dinner now. She isn't hungry.
- 3 The head chef is ill, so he **doesn't work** / **isn't working** today.
- 4 The bill **seems** / **is seeming** very high to me.
- 5 We've had an argument, so we **don't speak** / **aren't speaking** to each other at the moment.
- 6 My mum **thinks** / **is thinking** my diet is awful these days.
- 7 **Do we need** / **Are we needing** to go shopping today?
- 8 Can I call you back? **I have** / **I'm having** lunch right now.
- 9 I didn't use to like oily fish, but now **I love** / **I'm loving** it!
- 10 What **do you cook** / **are you cooking**? It smells delicious!
- 11 **I don't believe** / **I'm not believing** that you cooked this meal yourself.

## 7 SPEAKING

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- 1 Men are better cooks than women.
- 2 Both boys and girls should learn to cook at school.
- 3 Cheap restaurants usually serve bad food.
- 4 On a night out with friends, where and what you eat isn't important.
- 5 Not all fast food is unhealthy.
- 6 Every country thinks that their cuisine is the best in the world.

a Listen to two people discussing sentence 1. Who do you agree with more, the man or the woman? Why?

1.13

**Useful language: Giving your opinion (1) 1.14**

I agree.

I'm not sure.

For example ...

I don't agree.

(I think) it depends.

In my opinion ...

b Say what you think about sentences 2-6.

