

► **Practice 1. The simple present and the present progressive.** (Charts 2-1 and 2-2)

Complete the sentences. Write the simple present or the present progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The sun (*set*) _____ in the west every evening.
2. Look! The sun (*set*) _____ behind the mountain now. How beautiful!
3. The football players (*practice*) _____ on the field right now.
4. The football players (*practice*) _____ on the field every afternoon.
5. I always (*listen*) _____ to the radio when I'm in my car.
6. The traffic is bad today, but it isn't bothering me. I (*listen*) _____ to my favorite morning talk show with Jack LaLoule, who is very funny.
7. Sam and Lara (*talk*) _____ on the phone every night.
8. Sam and Lara (*talk*) _____ on the phone right now, so I can't call Lara. Her line is busy.
9. I'll call you back in a little while. We (*eat*) _____ dinner right now.
10. My grandparents usually (*eat*) _____ dinner early. They often go out to their favorite restaurant for the early dinner special at 5:30.

► **Practice 2. The simple present and the present progressive.** (Charts 2-1 and 2-2)

Circle the correct verb.

1. Because of the force of gravity, objects (*fall / are falling*) down and not up.
2. It's autumn! The leaves (*fall / are falling*), and winter will soon be here.
3. Coffee (*grows / is growing*) in mountainous areas, not in deserts.
4. Oh, you (*grow / are growing*) so fast, Johnny! Soon you'll be taller than your dad.
5. Near the Arctic Circle, the sun (*shines / is shining*) for more than twenty hours a day at the beginning of the summer.
6. It's a beautiful day! The sun (*shines / is shining*) and the birds (*sing / are singing*).
7. Maria is a professional singer. She (*sings / is singing*) in the opera every season.
8. Olga likes mysteries. She (*reads / is reading*) one mystery book every week.
9. Hello, Sarah? I (*call / am calling*) you from my car. I'm going to be a little late for lunch.

Complete the sentences. Write either the simple present or the present progressive form of the verbs in the list. Use each verb only once.

belong
bite

bleed
fail

mean
✓ own

shrink
sleep

try

1. The bank lent us money for a down payment, so now we own the house we used to rent.
2. Shhh! I try to concentrate. I can't hear myself think with all that noise going on.
3. This book is mine. That one belongs to Pierre.
4. Shhh! The baby is sleeping. We don't want to wake him up.
5. *Singular* means "one."
6. That sweater won't fit you if you wash it in hot water. Wool shrinks in hot water.
7. Look at Joan. She is biting her fingernails. She must be nervous.
8. A: Juan! What's the matter with your hand? It is bleeding.
B: I just cut it when I was using a knife. It's not serious. I'll wash it and put a bandage on it.
9. A: My grades in school are terrible this term. I fail three of my courses.
B: Maybe you can improve them before the end of the term if you start studying.

Write the letter of the correct completion.

1. There you are! Behind the tree! I see you.
a. see
b. am seeing
2. My mother's hearing has been getting worse for several months. She sees a specialist right now.
a. sees
b. is seeing
3. Do you see that man? I recognize him. He was my high school English teacher.
a. recognize
b. am recognizing
4. My favorite actor appears at the Paramount Theater.
a. currently appears
b. is currently appearing
5. A: Is my voice loud enough?
B: Yes, hearing.
a. I hear you
b. I am hearing you

6. A: Aren't you having any coffee?
B: No, ____.
a. I prefer tea
b. I'm preferring tea

7. A: What's on your mind?
B: I ____.
a. think about my family
b. am thinking about my family

8. A: Did you make a decision yet?
B: No, ____.
a. I need your opinion
b. I'm needing your opinion

9. A: Why are you staring at me?
B: ____.
a. You resemble your mom so much
b. You are resembling your mom so much

10. A: There's Dr. Jones on a motorcycle! Do you believe it? ____.
B: a. Yeah, he owns several
b. Yeah, he is owning several

Circle the letter of the correct completion. If the situation describes a temporary state, choose the present progressive.

1. My husband and I are short, but our children ____.
a. are tall
b. are being tall
2. Jane's an intelligent woman, but she won't see a doctor about those headaches she has. She ____ now.
a. is foolish
b. is being foolish
3. The teacher spoke harshly to the children because they were too noisy, so now they ____.
a. are quiet
b. are being quiet
4. Don't eat that chocolate dessert. It ____.
a. is not healthy
b. is not being healthy
5. Timmy! Those are bad words you're saying to Mr. Hawkes. You ____.
a. are not polite
b. are not being polite
6. I'm worried about Jeff. He has pneumonia. He ____.
a. is very ill
b. is being very ill

Complete the sentences with the simple present or the present progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. Kristin can't come to the phone because she (*wash*) is washing her hair.
2. Kristin (*wash*) _____ her hair every other day or so.
3. Tony (*sit, usually*) _____ in the front row during class, but today he (*sit*) _____ in the last row.
4. Please be quiet. I (*try*) _____ to concentrate.
5. (*you, lock, always*) _____ the door to your apartment when you leave?
6. I wrote to my friend last week. She hasn't answered my letter yet. I (*wait, still*) _____ for a reply.
7. After six days of rain, I'm glad that the sun (*shine*) _____ today.
8. Every morning, the sun (*shine*) _____ in my bedroom window and (*wake*) _____ me up.

Choose the correct completions.

1. This isn't my notebook. It _____ to Mai.
a. belongs b. is belonging
2. Ask Ahmed for your notebook. He _____ it.
a. has b. is having
3. Your notebook is over there. Ahmed _____ it.
a. holds b. is holding
4. Look at Olga. She's smiling and dancing. She _____ a good time.
a. has b. is having
5. Relax. You don't have to tell me any more about it. I _____ you.
a. believe b. am believing
6. Dinosaurs became extinct a long time ago. They _____ anymore.
a. don't exist b. aren't existing