Grammar 1 — Present simple, present continuous, stative verbs

1 **Read about the uses of the present simple, the present continuous and stative verbs.**

Present simple

- facts and permanent situations
  *I **live** in a big house with my extended family.*
- general truths and laws of nature
  *The sun **sets** in the evening.*
- habits and routines
  *We always **visit** New York in the summer.*
- timetables and programmes (future)
  *My partner's plane **arrives** at five o'clock.*
- reviews, stories and sports commentaries
  *The story **is** about a young girl and her friend.*

Present continuous

- actions happening at the time of speaking
  *Dad **is making** dinner in the kitchen.*
- temporary or changing situations
  *My cousin **is staying** with us for the holidays.*
  *She **is becoming** more and more frustrated.*
- annoying habits, often with adverbs like *always*
  *My coach **is always criticising** me.*
- plans and arrangements (future)
  *She **isn't seeing** her friends tomorrow.*

Stative verbs

Stative verbs describe states (not actions). Common stative verbs talk about feelings, emotions, the senses, states of mind and possession. We do not use them in continuous tenses.
*My mother **hates** doing household chores.*
*My colleagues **look** very cheerful today!*
*Some experts **believe** peers are more important to teens than family.*

However, some verbs can be both stative and action verbs, but with a change in meaning.
*My baby brother **appears** to be sleeping.*
(present simple = seems)
*My classmates and I **are appearing** in a play about relationships.*
(present continuous = performing)

2 **Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous. In which sentence could you use both, but with a change in meaning?**

a I _____ (see) my friends at the gym.
b My colleagues and I _____ (discuss) the new project right now.
c I _____ (usually ask) my coach for his advice.

Read 1.1-1.3 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

3 **Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous.**

1 _____ (you / understand) why teens think their peers are important?
2 My teacher _____ (always criticise) me! It drives me crazy!
3 Mum and Dad _____ (not give) my brother and me money for cleaning our room.
4 At what temperature _____ (water / freeze)?
5 We _____ (have) a huge get-together for all our relatives on Sunday.
6 In this story, Papa Bear _____ (sit) in his chair first.
7 My colleagues _____ (not work) this weekend.
8 _____ (your son / ever talk) to strangers?
9 _____ (you / cook) supper for your family every evening?



4 **Circle the correct words to complete the text.**

Teens and pocket money

Some parents complain that their children [1] **are always asking / ask always** for money. Many teens [2] **get / are getting** pocket money for helping with chores around the house and the amount of money they earn [3] **increases / is increasing** regularly. This is because things [4] **are becoming / become** more and more expensive all the time. Parents of teens [5] **are often worrying / often worry** about whether they should give their children pocket money and if they choose to do so, they [6] **usually have / are usually having** a hard time deciding how much to give them. It [7] **seems / is seeming** that there really is no 'correct' amount. One way for parents to decide how much to give their children is to ask other parents what they [8] **do / are doing** when it comes to pocket money. Many of them will say that they [9] **provide / are providing** their children with a certain amount of money each week. If their children [10] **are wanting / want** to buy something special, they can save this money until they have got enough or they can do extra chores around the house for a few weeks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS