

Grammar

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

- Tanya **enjoys** using social networking sites and **uses** them every day.
She's **playing** an online game at the moment.
- I **don't understand** why Emma **is always chatting** on the Net with Linda. They **see** each other five times a week. Tomorrow they're **spending** the whole day together.

NOTE Stative verbs (see, like, want, seem, understand, need, believe, imagine, know, cost, etc.) are **not** usually used in the Present Continuous.

Complete with the Present Simple or the Present Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- A: Why are you in such a hurry? What time _____ the train to Brighton _____ (leave)?

B: At 9 p.m. But I _____ (want) to be at the train station at six o'clock because I _____ (meet) my friend Sally.
- A: Whose suitcase is this?

B: It's Timothy's. He _____ (stay) with us for a few days.

A: Really? Where is he now?

B: He's outside with Larry. They _____ (wash) the car. Larry _____ (always / wash) the car on Sundays.
- A: Hey, Mary. Can you explain this text to me? I _____ (not understand) it.

B: Not now, Kevin. I _____ (work).

A: Oh Mary. You _____ (never / help) me!
- A: Why _____ the children _____ (cry)?

B: Because they can't find their cat. They _____ (think) someone took it.

A: Their cat is outside. It _____ (sleep) next to the garage.

C. Circle the correct words.

1. A: Jim **visits** / **is visiting** Kuala Lumpur this summer.
B: Wow that **sounds** / **is sounding** great!
2. A: I can't stand Peter. He **always tell** / **is always telling** me what to do!
B: I **know** / **am knowing**. He's so bossy.
3. A: The *Rovers* are the best football team.
B: I **don't think** / **'m not thinking** so.
A: What **do you talk** / **are you talking** about? They're brilliant.
4. A: **Do you come** / **Are you coming** to the theatre with us tonight?
B: What time **does the play start** / **the play is starting**?
A: At six o'clock.
B: I'm afraid I can't. My lessons **don't finish** / **aren't finishing** till eight.
5. A: I didn't know you still **live** / **are living** with your parents.
B: I don't. I **stay** / **am staying** with them for a few weeks, till I find another flat.



D. Complete the text with the Present Simple or the Present Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Hey Peter,
How's it going? I (1) _____ (write) to ask for your help. I (2) _____ (hope) that you (3) _____ (not mind). This week I (4) _____ (move) out of the bedroom I shared with my brother and I (5) _____ (get) my own room. It's small but it's got a big window and I (6) _____ (like) it. Anyway, my problem is the colours. My dad (7) _____ (plan) to paint it tomorrow, so I (8) _____ (need) to choose the colours today. I (9) _____ (love) the way you've painted your bedroom in two colours but I (10) _____ (not know) what to choose for mine. As you know, I (11) _____ (spend) quite a lot of time in my room so I (12) _____ (want) it to be really nice. Any ideas? I (13) _____ (think) of surfing the Net to find a website about bedroom decorating. (14) _____ (you / know) of any sites I can check out?
My sister (15) _____ (usually / help) me out with Internet research, but these days she (16) _____ (study) all the time and hasn't got the time. So, can you help me out?
Write back as soon as possible.
Bye for now.
Kevin