

# Present Simple vs Present Continuous

## 1) Read the information and the examples:

We use the **present simple**:

- to talk about **routines** or habits.  
*They **watch** TV every day.*
- for **permanent situations**.  
*He **works** in New York.*
- for **facts** (= **general truths**)  
*Water **boils** at 100° C.*  
*Lions **eat** meat. They are carnivorous.*

We use the **present continuous**:

- for **things that are happening now**.  
*They **are watching** TV at the moment.*
- for **temporary situations**.  
*He **is working** in London this week.*

Read the sentences and choose the correct option. What are they expressing?

a) I **play** football every Sunday.

**Routine**

**Action happening now.**

b) I'm **playing** football at the moment.

**Routine**

**Action happening now.**

c) He **lives** in Buenos Aires.

**Permanent Situation**

**Temporary Situation**

d) He **is living** with some friends this month because some painters are painting his house.

**Permanent Situation**

**Temporary Situation**

Choose the best ending for each sentence from each pair. Write 1 or 2 in the boxes.

- a) We **don't eat** in that restaurant... ☐ 1 because it's full.  
 We **are not eating** in that restaurant today.... ☐ 2 because the food is terrible!
- b) I'm **writing** an email to my parents.... ☐ 1 because their phone is broken.  
 I **write** to my parents.... ☐ 2 once a month.
- c) She **drives** to work every day... ☐ 1 so she can't answer the phone.  
 She **is driving** right now... ☐ 2 so she spends a lot of money on petrol.
- d) I **am working** in a café... ☐ 1 but I don't enjoy it.  
 I **work** in a bank.... ☐ 2 but it's only a summer job.

2) Compare the **Affirmative, Negative and Question Forms of the Verbs "play" and "study"** and then use these tables to do the activities below.

**TOP TIP!!** The form of the verbs depends on the **PERSON** of the sentence!!!!

Present Simple			
Aff.	Person	+ Verb	+ Rest of sentence.
	I	<b>play</b>	football
	We		
	You	<b>study</b>	English
	They		
	He	<b>plays</b>	football
	She		
	It	<b>studies</b>	English
			every Monday.

Present Continuous			
Aff.	Person	+ Verb BE	+ Verb + ING
	I	<b>am</b>	
	He		<b>playing</b>
	She	<b>is</b>	football
	It		
	We		<b>studying</b>
	You	<b>are</b>	English
	They		
			now.

**Neg.****Present Simple**

Person	+ Neg Aux.	+ Verb	+ Rest of sentence.
I We You They	<b>don't</b>	<b>play</b> football <b>study</b> English	on Sundays.
He She It	<b>doesn't</b>	<b>play</b> football <b>study</b> English	

**Questions****Present Simple**

Aux.	+ Person	+ Verb	+ Rest of Sentence
<b>Do</b>	I we you they	<b>play</b> football	on Fridays?
<b>Does</b>	he she it	<b>study</b> English	

**Neg.****Present Continuous**

Person	+ Verb BE + not	+ Verb + ING	+ Rest of sentence.
I	<b>am not</b> (= 'm not)	<b>playing</b> football	now.
He She It	<b>is not</b> (= isn't)		
We You They	<b>are not</b> (= aren't)	<b>studying</b> English	

**Questions****Present Continuous**

Verb BE	+ Person	+ Verb + ING	+ Rest of Sentence
<b>Am</b>	I	<b>playing</b> football	now?
<b>Is</b>	he she it		
<b>Are</b>	we you they	<b>studying</b> English	

Click on the correct option:

- a) Oh, no! We can't play tennis. It **rains** / **is raining**.  
 b) It **rains** / **is raining** a lot in March in Argentina.  
 c) I **read** / **am reading** a very good book at the moment.  
 d) I **read** / **am reading** in bed every night.

- e) Vegetarians **don't eat** / **aren't eating** meat.  
 f) Look! That man **eats** / **is eating** a big ice-cream!  
 g) She's a doctor. She **works** / **is working** in St Mary's Hospital.  
 h) She **works** / **is working** very hard because she has a maths test tomorrow.

Click on the correct option to complete the sentences:

- 1) Thomas ..... his teeth **every day**.  
a) is cleaning    b) clean    c) cleans.
- 2) Mary ..... her new sweater **today**.  
a) is wearing    b) wears    c) are wearing
- 3) Ben and Jim ..... their beds **every morning**.  
a) making    b) don't make    c) aren't making
- 4) I ..... my glasses **at the moment**.  
a) wear    b) don't wear    c) am not wearing
- 5) Lucas **usually** ..... the guitar but **now** he ..... the piano.  
a) plays / is playing    b) plays / playing
- 6) ..... you ..... basketball **on Sundays** at the park?  
a) Do / playing    b) Do / play
- 7) ..... he ..... TV **right now**?  
a) Are / watching    b) Is / watching
- 8) ..... they ..... to the shopping mall **every weekend**?  
a) Are / go    b) Does / go    c) Do / go

What time expressions do we often use in each tense?

Click on **PS (Present Simple)** or **PC (Present Continuous)**

always	PS	PC
now	PS	PC
never	PS	PC
right now	PS	PC
usually	PS	PC
sometimes	PS	PC
today	PS	PC
at the moment	PS	PC
this week	PS	PC
often	PS	PC
every week	PS	PC
once a month	PS	PC
this month	PS	PC
twice a week	PS	PC
on Tuesdays	PS	PC
these days	PS	PC
every summer	PS	PC
this summer	PS	PC