

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

1) Read the information and the examples:

<p>We use the present simple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to talk about routines or habits. <i>They watch TV every day.</i> • for permanent situations. <i>He works in New York.</i> • for facts (= general truths) <i>Water boils at 100° C.</i> <i>Lions eat meat. <i>They are carnivorous.</i></i> 	<p>We use the present continuous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for things that are happening now. <i>They are watching TV at the moment.</i> • for temporary situations. <i>He is working in London this week.</i>
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Read the sentences and choose the correct option. What are they expressing?

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

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.

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	play	football	every Monday.
We You They	study	English	
He She	plays	football	now.
It	studies	English	

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

Neg.**Present Simple**

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

Neg.**Present Continuous**

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

Questions**Present Simple**

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

Questions**Present Continuous**

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