

Present simple

Present simple or present continuous?

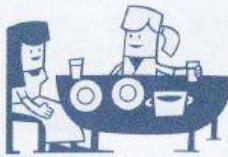
4 Compare the present simple and the present continuous:

He sits at a desk every day.

He's sitting at his desk at the moment.

Grammar in action

5 We use the **present simple** to talk about facts that are always true. We use the **present continuous** to talk about things that are only true at the moment or in the present period of time:



You cook wonderful meals.
(= always or usually)



He's cooking a meal in the kitchen.
(= right now)

6 We use the **present simple** for permanent situations. We use the **present continuous** for temporary situations:

My husband works for a computer company, but he's working at home today.

7 We use the **present simple** for things we do regularly (e.g. in our daily routine). We can use it with words and phrases describing how often something happens (*always, sometimes, often, never, usually, every day, etc.*):

I go to bed at ten and get up at six every day.

We do not use the present continuous with this meaning:

I sometimes wear a hat.

(NOT *I'm sometimes wearing a hat.*)

8 We often use the **present continuous** with 'now' and phrases meaning 'now', for example *at the moment, right now, this week, this month*. We do not use the present simple with these words and phrases:

I'm sitting in a traffic jam at the moment. (NOT *I sit ...*)

9 We use the **present simple** with verbs that describe what we feel and think. These verbs are connected with what is in our minds, not with actions. They describe what we like (for example *like, dislike, hate, love*), what we want (*want, need*), what we know (*know, understand, realize, remember*) and what we believe (*believe, think*). We do not use the present continuous with these verbs:

I don't understand this letter.

(NOT *I'm not understanding this letter.*)

E Over to our reporter



Complete what the television reporter says by choosing the present simple or present continuous form.

Hello, ... *I'm standing* ⁰ outside a very famous person's house. ¹
in films and ² millions of dollars for every film. ³
on the front cover of magazines and people all over the world ⁴
her and ⁵ her. And people ⁶ about her at the
moment because the media ⁷ stories about her private life. She
..... ⁸ her private life but right now everyone ⁹ to
know about it. Can you guess who it is?

Dozens of photographers are here too and ¹⁰ for her to come out.
Ah, the front door ¹¹ now and someone ¹² out.

- 0 I stand / I'm standing
- 1 She stars / She's starring
- 2 she earns / she's earning
- 3 She appears / She's appearing
- 4 know / are knowing
- 5 love / are loving
- 6 talk / are talking

- 7 tell / are telling
- 8 doesn't usually discuss / isn't usually discussing
- 9 wants / is wanting
- 10 we wait / we're waiting
- 11 opens / is opening
- 12 comes / is coming

F Someone to write to

Complete this letter in an international magazine for teenagers, using the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms.

Letter of the month

I 'm looking ⁰ (look) for someone to write to in another country. I ¹ (speak) quite good English but I ² (want) to get better at it. And I ³ (think) it's good to have friends in different parts of the world.

I ⁴ (go) to a local school and this term we ⁵ (study) for our exams. I ⁶ (work) very hard at school now because I ⁷ (need) to get good results. In my spare time, I ⁸ (like) classical music but I ⁹ (not like) much modern pop music. I ¹⁰ (not play) video games and I ¹¹ (not watch)

TV much – I ¹² (read) a lot of books and at the moment I ¹³ (try) to read fiction in English. I ¹⁴ (take) an interest in sports but I ¹⁵ (not play) any sports regularly.

My family? My father ¹⁶ (work) for an international company and he ¹⁷ (travel) a lot - right now he ¹⁸ (travel) in South-East Asia. He always ¹⁹ (buy) me something interesting from these trips and at the moment I ²⁰ (use) a computer that he bought me. I hope that I ²¹ (not make) too many mistakes!

G Adverts

Complete the extracts from adverts, using the present simple or present continuous and the words in brackets.

0 **Do you want** (you/want) to improve your computer skills? This month **we're/we are** **offering** (we/offer) free lessons.

1 (you look) **for a new job?** **Our agency always** (have) **hundreds of interesting jobs.**

2 (you/need) **a new TV?** (We/take) **10% off all our TVs this month.**

3 **People** (love) **this area and** (it/become) **very popular with tourists.**

4 (We/serve) **thousands of customers every week** and many of them (come) back to us again.

5 **Our company** (grow) **and** (we/look) **for more staff.**

6 **The box office** (open) **at 8 a.m. every day, but hurry, tickets** (sell) **fast.**

OVER TO YOU Now go to page 122.