

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

Dozens of photographers are here too and .....<sup>10</sup> for her to come out.  
 Ah, the front door .....<sup>11</sup> now and someone .....<sup>12</sup> 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 <sup>0</sup> (look) for someone to write to in another country. I <sup>1</sup> (speak) quite good English but I <sup>2</sup> (want) to get better at it. And I <sup>3</sup> (think) it's good to have friends in different parts of the world.

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

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

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

## G Adverts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OVER TO YOU** Now go to page 122.