

Contrast: present simple and present continuous

I can distinguish the use of the present simple and present continuous.



Hi, Adam. I'm in the park with some friends. Do you want to join us?

What are you doing?

At the moment, we're listening to Sue. She's playing the guitar.

Is she good?

She's OK. She's getting better. She has guitar lessons every week. So are you coming?

I don't know. We're moving house next weekend, so I need to help my parents. We're packing boxes today.

That's a shame. We're playing volleyball later.

I love volleyball! Maybe just for an hour ...

Sure. A game of volleyball doesn't take long. See you later! 😊

- 1 Describe the photo. What are the people doing? Use the verbs below.

laugh play sit smile wear

The girl on the left is playing the guitar.

- 2 Read the messages above. Why does Adam change his mind about going to the park?

LEARN THIS! Present tense contrast

We use:

- the **present simple** for something that happens regularly, always or never.
- the **present continuous** for something happening at this moment.
- the **present simple** for something happening around this time.
- the **present simple** for stating a fact.
- the **present simple** with certain verbs that we do not usually use in continuous tenses: *believe, know, like, love, need, understand, want*, etc.
- the **present simple** for future arrangements.

- 3 Find examples of the present simple and present continuous in the messages in exercise 2. Then read the **Learn this!** box and complete the rules.

- 4 Match each example you found in the messages with the correct rule (a–f) in the **Learn this!** box.

- 5 Work in pairs. Explain the difference between sentences a and b in each pair.

- a I'm doing my homework after school.

b I do my homework after school.
- a Joe is learning to drive.

b Many teenagers learn to drive when they are seventeen.
- a Mark plays the guitar.

b Mark is playing the guitar.

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- 6 **1.03** Complete the phone dialogue. Use the correct present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

Toby Hi!

Leia Hi, Toby. What ¹are you doing (you / do)?

Toby I'm at the sports centre. I ²_____ (wait) for Tom.

Leia ³_____ (you / go) swimming?

Toby No, we ⁴_____ (play) table tennis. We ⁵_____ (play) every Saturday morning. But he's really late!

Leia What ⁶_____ (he / do)?

Toby I ⁷_____ (not know). He ⁸_____ (not answer) his phone. Anyway, where are you?

Leia I'm at the shopping centre, but I ⁹_____ (not buy) anything today. I ¹⁰_____ just _____ (look).

Toby ¹¹_____ (you / like) table tennis?

Leia ¹²_____ (you / want) to play?

Toby Sure! But I ¹³_____ (not wear) sports clothes.

Leia Yes, I am – with jeans and a T-shirt.

Toby That's fine. You ¹⁴_____ (not need) sports clothes. See you soon!

- 7 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions 1–4.

- What do you usually do at the weekend?
- What are you doing this weekend?
- What do you usually do during the school holidays?
- What are you doing next school holiday?