

Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

A Compare:

present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking.
The action is not complete.

I am doing

past now future

- ☐ The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- ☐ Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**?
- ☐ Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- ☐ 'I'm busy.' 'What **are you doing**?'
- ☐ I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- ☐ Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- ☐ The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

We use the continuous for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- ☐ I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- ☐ A: You're **working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

present simple (I do)

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

I do

past now future

- ☐ Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- ☐ Excuse me, **do you speak** English?
- ☐ It **doesn't rain** very much in summer.
- ☐ What **do** you usually **do** at weekends?
- ☐ I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- ☐ Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- ☐ Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

- ☐ My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- ☐ Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

B I always do and I'm always doing

I **always do** something = I do it every time:

- ☐ I **always go** to work by car. (not I'm always going)

I'm **always doing** something = I do it too often or more often than normal.

For example:



I'm **always losing** them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

- ☐ Paul is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= he complains too much)
- ☐ You're **always looking** at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

Exercises

3.1 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. OK
- 2 How often are you going to the cinema? do you go
- 3 Ben tries to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet. _____
- 4 Martina is phoning her mother every day. _____
- 5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days. _____
- 6 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? _____
- 7 What do you do in your spare time? _____
- 8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She doesn't eat meat. _____
- 9 I must go now. It gets late. _____
- 10 'Come on! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.' _____
- 11 Paul is never late. He s always starting work on time. _____
- 12 They don't get on well. They re always arguing. _____

3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 a ...I usually get... (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.
b ...I'm getting... (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.
- 2 a '..... (you / listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'
b '..... (you / listen) to the radio a lot?' 'No, not very often.'
- 3 a The River Nile..... (flow) into the Mediterranean.
b The river..... (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 4 a I'm not very active. (I / not / do) any sport.
b What..... (you / usually / do) at weekends?
- 5 a Rachel is in New York right now. (She / stay) at the Park Hotel.
b (She / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

3.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Why are all these people here? ...What's happening... (What / happen)?
- 2 Julia is good at languages. (She / speak) four languages very well.
- 3 Are you ready yet? (Everybody / wait) for you.
- 4 I've never heard this word. How..... (you / pronounce) it?
- 5 Kate..... (not / work) this week. She's on holiday.
- 6 I think my English..... (improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
- 7 Nicola (live) in Manchester. She has never lived anywhere else.
- 8 Can we stop walking soon? (I / start) to get tired.
- 9 Sam and Tina are in Madrid right now. (They / visit) a friend of theirs.
- 10 'What..... (your father / do)?' 'He's an architect.'
- 11 It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days.....
(it / not / take) so long.
- 12 I..... (I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My father
..... (teach) me.

3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use **always -ing**.

- 1 A: I've lost my keys again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys.
- 2 A: The car has broken down again.
B: That car is useless. It.....
- 3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.
B: Oh no, not again! I.....
- 4 A: Oh, I've left my phone at home again.
B: Typical!