

## 1A Simple present and present continuous; action and state verbs

1.2

I **check** my e-mails every morning. I'm **replying** to your message right now.  
 I **need** to access the Internet. **Are you enjoying** your vacation?  
 My sister **has** a new job. My parents **are having** breakfast.

### Simple present

We use the simple present to talk about things that are always true.

*They speak Portuguese in Brazil. The sun sets in the west.*

We also use the simple present to talk about regular routines.

*I start work at 8:45. My brother gets up at 6:30 every day.*

We often use the simple present with frequency adverbs and expressions.

*We never go shopping on Saturdays. They often go to the beach on the weekend.*

### Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about actions that are happening now.

*He's speaking to his sister on Skype right now. I'm waiting for you at the bus stop.*

We also use the present continuous to talk about actions that are temporary.

*She's living with her parents at the moment. I'm studying economics this year.*

### Action and state verbs

We can use the simple present and present continuous with verbs that describe an action.

*I play soccer on Wednesday evenings.*

*I'm playing a soccer game on my computer right now.*

We usually use the simple present, not the present continuous, with verbs which describe a state.

*She doesn't like her new haircut.* NOT *She isn't liking her new haircut.*

*I don't understand. What do you mean?* NOT *I'm not understanding. What are you meaning?*

*I own a car.* NOT *I'm owning a car.*

#### state verbs

feelings	<i>like, love, hate, want, prefer, need</i> Enjoy is used in the continuous tense: <i>I'm enjoying the party.</i>
thoughts and opinions	<i>know, believe, remember, forget, understand, think, feel, consider, realize, expect, agree, suppose, doubt, mean</i>
states	<i>be, have (possess), exist, seem, appear, belong, own, matter</i>
senses	<i>taste, sound, look, feel, hear, smell</i>

**Look!** Some verbs can be both action and state verbs, with different meanings.

*I'm thinking about my vacation.* (the action of thinking = action verb)

*I think this website is the best.* (an opinion = state verb)

*He's having steak and French fries.* (the action of eating = action verb)

*He has a white sports car.* (a possession = state verb)

*I'm feeling happy.* (the action of having an emotion = action verb)

*It feels soft.* (the sense = state verb)

1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 They *don't want / aren't wanting* to go swimming today because it's too cold.
- 2 I *prefer / 'm preferring* this coffee – it *tastes / 's tasting* much better than that coffee.
- 3 I can't talk to you right now. We *have / 're having* lunch.
- 4 *Why do you wait / are you waiting* for the bus? There aren't any buses after midnight!
- 5 I *don't understand / 'm not understanding* this movie because they're speaking too fast.
- 6 We *think / 're thinking* all museums should be free.
- 7 He *works / 's working* in the library this morning.
- 8 That suitcase *belongs / is belonging* to me.

2 Complete the sentences with the simple present or present continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to my boss at the moment. Can I call you back in five minutes?
- 2 They \_\_\_\_\_ (send) me a birthday card every year.
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the office now. I'll call you later.
- 4 You look really tired. I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) you \_\_\_\_\_ (need) to go to bed now.
- 5 I'm so hungry! I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about dinner.
- 6 I can't talk now. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in the library.
- 7 I \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at my best friend's house at the moment.
- 8 My Internet connection \_\_\_\_\_ (not work) today.

3 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.



I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not understand) why some people  
<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (believe) that we <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to  
 each other much less than in the past. I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
 (own) a smartphone, and I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (use) it all  
 the time. I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (send) messages to my  
 friends several times a day, and I often <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
 (call) them for a chat. It's true that we <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
 (have) very busy lives nowadays and that we  
<sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ (not speak) face to  
 face. It <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (seem) to me that electronic  
 devices <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (make) our lives much easier.  
 For example, I <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (write) this blog now  
 while I <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) on the train.