▶ Talking about the present (present simple, present continuous)

▶ We use **present simple** for:

- repeated actions, habits and situations: *He goes swimming every Saturday.*
- likes and dislikes: *He drinks a lot of coffee. I don't like Chinese food.*
- facts, rules: *Footballers earn a lot of money. My cousin lives in Germany. Water freezes at temperatures below 0.*
- activities taking place according to an agenda/schedule: *The game starts at 6 pm.*
- in time clauses with a future meaning: *I'll phone you when I finish my homework.*

Time/frequency expressions used with **present simple** include:

a) ***never, seldom, hardly ever, rarely, sometimes, often, usually, always***. Pay attention to their position in a sentence: *I **often** sleep till late. She **never** helps out around the house.*
Ale: *He is **usually** late. I don't **usually** watch that programme.*

b) ***every day/week/month/year/summer, from time to time, once/twice/three times a day/week/month/year*** etc.
These expressions are used at the beginning or end of a sentence: *She goes jogging **every morning. From time to time**, we spend the weekend in the mountains.*

▶ We use **present continuous** for:

- activities taking place at the moment of speaking: *They're going to school at the moment.*
- activities or situations currently taking place, eg this week/month etc.: *I'm studying a lot this week. They aren't going on holiday this summer.*
- activities planned and already arranged for the near future: *We're leaving tomorrow morning. She's flying to Canada next week.*
- situations that are changing: *The climate is getting warmer.*
- repeated actions that irritate us (with ***always***): *My sister is **always** borrowing my clothes.*

Time expressions typical for **present continuous** include:

a) ***now, at the moment*** – for things happening at the moment of speaking;

b) ***today, these days, this week, this month, this summer*** – for current situations;

c) **tomorrow, next week/month/Sunday** – for things planned for near future.

Some verbs are not usually used in present continuous, even though the activities they describe happen at the moment of speaking. They are the so called stative verbs and include:

a) verbs describing emotions and feelings : ***love, like, hate, (not) mind***;

b) verbs describing senses or perception : ***see, hear, smell, taste, feel***;

c) verbs describing states of mind: ***know, believe, understand, think***;

d) verbs describing will, preferences or intentions: ***want, need, mean, prefer***.

Pay attention to some verbs which have different meanings and therefore can sometimes use the present continuous:

1 *I **think** it's a good idea.*
– *I'm **thinking** about my holiday.*

2 *She **looks** tired.*
– *She **is looking** at me.*

3 *He **has** a lot of friends.*
– *Now, **he's having** a break.*

4 *The soup **tastes** really good.*
– *I'm **tasting** the soup.*

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2 Complete the email with the correct present form of the verbs in brackets.

www.e-mail.com

New message

Hi Eva,
What (1) _____ (you / think) of the new Adele album? I absolutely (2) _____ (love) it.
I (3) _____ (listen) to it at this very moment!
I (4) _____ (play) it really loudly in my bedroom every night. Mum (5) _____ (get) a bit fed up with it! She (6) _____ (always / tell) me to turn it down or put my earphones in. You know, I (7) _____ (think) Adele's music (8) _____ (get) better and better. (9) _____ (you / agree)?
By the way – (10) _____ (you / remember) I told you that we (11) _____ (go) on holiday to London? Well – it's tomorrow! We (12) _____ (get) up at 4.30 because our plane (13) _____ (leave) at 7.00. So, I (14) _____ (go) to bed really early tonight.
See you next week!
Love, Sammy

3 Complete the blog with the correct present form of the verbs in the box.

watch speak improve swim play study read do go enjoy want look

www.Jack'sblog

My day | Favorite dishes | The best books | Pictures | Friends | Letters

JACK'S BLOG

My name is Jack and I (1) _____ for a friend to write to in Ukraine. I'm sixteen and at the moment, I (2) _____ for my exams. I (3) _____ languages and I (4) _____ French and German quite well and my Spanish (5) _____.
I (6) _____ to learn Ukrainian too!
I (7) _____ quite a lot of sport. Every week I (8) _____ football and (9) _____ swimming with my mates.
I (10) _____ in a national competition next weekend. I also (11) _____ a lot and I (12) _____ films at the cinema at least three times a month. Would YOU like to write to me?

5 Choose the correct phrases to complete the description of the picture.

This picture (1) **looks / is looking** really interesting.
It (2) **shows / is showing** three students. They (3) **do / 're doing** something together. Perhaps they (4) **work / 're working** on a project. They (5) **all wear / 're all wearing** school uniforms, so they might be at an English school.
Their teacher (6) **stands / is standing** near them and she (7) **writes / 's writing** something on the board.
The students (8) **seem / are seeming** interested in their activity and I (9) **think / am thinking** they (10) **enjoy /'re enjoying** their work.

6 Read the bullet points and complete the sentences with the correct present form of the verbs in brackets.

• tell your friend about your plans for the weekend

I (1) _____ (meet) my friends on Saturday morning and we (2) _____ (all / go) shopping.
I (3) _____ (need) to buy some books for school and they (4) _____ (have) a sale at the bookshop!

• describe where you live

I (5) _____ (live) in a lovely village just outside a small town and I (6) _____ (travel) to school in the town by bus every day. Most of the houses are very old but they (7) _____ (build) some new ones on the edge of the village at the moment. Because the village is quite small I (8) _____ (know) nearly everyone there! That's cool.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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