

## 5A Simple present and present continuous

We use the simple present to talk about facts and things that happen regularly.

*Sam lives in Australia.*

*We wear a uniform at work.*

*I usually wake up at six o'clock.*

We use the present continuous to talk about things that are happening now, or are temporary.

*I'm wearing blue pants today.*

*I'm going to work by car today.*

*My friend is living in New York right now.*

We often use the simple present and present continuous together to contrast the usual situation with what is happening now, or is temporary.

### 5.2 Present simple and present continuous

**It usually doesn't** rain in the summer, but **it's raining** today.

**I usually wear** jeans to work, but today **I'm wearing** a suit.

**I often don't** cook, but **I'm cooking** every evening this week.

There are some verbs that describe a state, not an action. We normally don't use these verbs in the present continuous.

*I prefer this music. NOT I'm preferring this music.*

*Sorry, I don't understand. NOT Sorry, I'm not understanding.*

*I have some new sandals. NOT I'm having some new sandals.*

**Look!** Here are some common state verbs:

Feelings: *like, love, hate, want, prefer, need*

Thoughts and opinions: *know, believe, remember, forget, understand, think*

States: *be, belong, have* (when we talk about relationships or possessions)

1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences and questions.

1 *What do you do / are you doing right now?*

2 *Is he going / Does he go there often?*

3 *They're working / work late tonight.*

4 *I never read / 'm never reading books.*

5 *I'm studying / study in my bedroom now.*

6 Most people *finish / are finishing* school at eighteen or nineteen years old.

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

1 I \_\_\_\_\_ right now. (read)

2 He \_\_\_\_\_ to New York three times a year. (go)

3 They \_\_\_\_\_ us every summer. (visit)

4 How \_\_\_\_\_ Erica \_\_\_\_\_ to work today? (get)

5 I \_\_\_\_\_ coffee very often. (not drink)

6 We \_\_\_\_\_ a really good TV series right now. (watch)

7 I usually \_\_\_\_\_ juice for breakfast. (have)

8 Please be quiet – the baby \_\_\_\_\_. (sleep)

3 Read the information. Then complete the text about James.



James usually <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ tea and toast for breakfast. He <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a suit. He <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ all day. This week, James is on vacation. He <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ coffee and croissants for breakfast. He <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ shorts and a T-shirt. He <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a great time!