

Present Tenses- revision

Read the examples carefully & choose the correct phrase to complete the rules:

PRESENT SIMPLE (base form + s/es/ies for 3rd person sg)

PRESENT CONTINUOUS (am / is / are + Ving)

1. He usually (a) gets up early to go to work, but today (b) he's sleeping in.
 - (a) present simple used for: **routines / annoying habits**
 - (b) present continuous used for: **temporary break from routine / habitual actions**
2. I usually believe what he says, but I'm not believing don't believe him now.
 - In the case of **state / action** verbs we normally use the present simple, not the present continuous
3. She is being selfish.
 - Even though *be* is a state verb, we can use it in the present continuous **to say that nothing has changed / to express a change in behaviour**
4. It seldom rains here.
 - present simple used for: **annoying habits / repeated actions**
5. It's always raining! How I wish I lived somewhere else...
 - There are exceptions when we can use the present continuous with adverbs of frequency (*always...*), but only to stress that the action is **irritating / ordinary**.
6. I'm smelling your flowers.
 - We don't normally use the present continuous with verbs of perception (*hear, smell, touch, see...*) because they are usually state verbs. However, there are exceptions when we can use them in the present continuous, but they either change meaning or type (they are no longer states, they are actions – like in **example 6 / example 7**)
7. Your flowers are smelling smell lovely.
 - Smell is a verb of perception, so we normally use it in the present simple, because it expresses a **state / action**.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE (have / has + V3)

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS (have / has + been + Ving)

1. He has just received his results.
 - We normally use the present perfect simple to express a recent past action that happened at an unspecified time in the **past / present**
2. The dog has attacked attacked the intruder last night.
 - When the time is specified (*last night*) we always use the **present perfect / past simple**
3. I have been writing this long letter I need to send since morning.
 - We use the present perfect continuous to express an action that started in the past and which is **still / not** going on in the present.
4. It's been ages since you last made a cake.
 - you can use "it has been ages" (AmE) OR "it's ages" (BrE)
 - **Fixed / Flexible expression:** Present Perfect ... SINCE ... Past Simple!
5. This is the second time you have lost your keys.
 - **Fixed / Flexible expression:** This is the first / second / third / etc time + PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE!