Present Simple – Present Continuous

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Stative Verbs

Some verbs rarely appear in the continuous tenses. These verbs express a permanent state and they are: appear (= seem), be, believe, belong, cost, feel, forget, hate, have (= possess), know, like, love, mean, need, prefer, realise, remember, see, seem, smell, sound, suppose, taste, think, understand, want, etc.

I **understand** it now. **NOT** I ~~**am understanding**~~ it now.

Some of these verbs can be used in continuous tenses but with a difference in meaning.

Present Simple

I **think** he's Italian.
(= believe)
Katie **looks** happy.
(= appears to be)
You can **see** the sea from my room.
(= it is visible)
Derek **has** a new car.
(= possesses)
This pie **tastes** really good.
(= it has a really good flavour)
This new dress **fits** her perfectly.
(= it is her size)
He **is** so polite.
(= that's his character)
She **appears** to be tired.
(= seems)

Present Continuous

Tom **is thinking** of moving house.
(= is considering)
They **are looking** at the paintings.
(= are taking a look at)
Sam **is seeing** his friends tonight.
(= is meeting)
We **are having** dinner at 8 o'clock.
(= are eating)
Paul **is tasting** the soup to see if it needs salt.
(= is trying)
He **is fitting** a new lock on the door.
(= is attaching)
He **is being** so rude today!
(= he is behaving like that only today)
She **is appearing** in a new TV show.
(= is taking part)

22 **Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.**

1 A: I ..*see*.. **(see)** you still have a toothache.
B: Yes, I do. Actually, I ..... **(see)** my dentist later.

2 A: I ..... **(think)** of visiting Jim this afternoon.
B: Don't bother. I ..... **(think)** he's on a business trip.

3 A: Why ..... **(Greg/be)** so rude today?
B: I have no idea. He ..... **(be)** usually very polite.

4 A: Why ..... **(you/taste)** the sauce? Does it need more pepper?
B: No. It ..... **(taste)** great the way it is.

5 A: Why ..... **(you/smell)** the milk?
B: Because it ..... **(smell)** off. We should throw it away.

6 A: I see you ..... **(have)** a new mobile phone.
B: Yes, but I ..... **(have)** trouble understanding how it works.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Present Simple – Present Continuous

23 **Use the verbs to complete the sentences. Use the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.**

fit	look	have	smell	think
appear	~~prefer~~	not/know	not/like	not/belong

1 Aya ..... *prefers* ..... classical music to jazz and pop.
2 He ..... new cabinets in the kitchen.
3 She ..... so relieved now that the test is over.
4 Tom ..... Indian food. It's too hot and spicy for him.
5 The new rock band .... on stage tonight.
6 This isn't Ahmed's coat. It .... to him.
7 The food ..... nice.
8 The funfair rides are exciting. We .... a great time!
9 I ..... where Jane is at the moment.
10 The Browns .... of going to the theatre tonight.

24 **Underline the correct item.**

1 The children **are having** / **have** so much fun at the circus!
2 Fiona **is looking** / **looks** at some photos.
3 This jacket **is fitting** / **fits** you perfectly. You should buy it.
4 Ron **is wanting** / **wants** to become a pilot.
5 I **am not understanding** / **don't understand** the meaning of that word.
6 He **is loving** / **loves** playing football.
7 I **am thinking** / **think** of buying a new CD.

GAME

What are you doing?

Imagine you are at home. In teams, students ask you questions to find out where you are and what you are doing.

• **kitchen** • **bathroom** • **bedroom** • **living room**



Team A S1: Are you in the living room?
Leader: Yes, I am.
Team A S2: Are you watching TV?
Leader: No, I'm not, etc.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Speaking Activity

(Talking about actions happening now)

Look at the picture. Ask and answer questions as in the examples:

- look / map
- take / pictures
- look at / postcards
- drink / coffee
- feed / birds
- eat / sandwich
- read / book



A: What's Mr Jones doing?
B: He's looking at a map.

A: Is Andy reading a book?
B: No, he isn't. He's taking pictures, etc.



Writing Activity

Imagine you are on holiday. Complete the email below telling your English pen friend about your holiday.

Greetings from ..... ! We're staying at ..... .
The weather is ..... . There isn't a cloud in the sky.
Right now, I ..... . My parents .....
..... and my ..... .
We ..... late every day and .....
..... .
In the evening, we ..... or ..... .
Tonight we ..... .
We love it here. There is so much to see and do. See you in ..... .
Yours,
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS