

Unit 1: Present Tenses - Simple VS Continuous

Read the theory and solve the activities

1 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- 1 a My brother lives with us until he can find a flat of his own.
b My brother is living with us until he can find a flat of his own. ✓
- 2 a Megan goes to Hong Kong every January.
b Megan's going to Hong Kong every January.
- 3 a I don't have enough money for a long holiday this year.
b I'm not having enough money for a long holiday this year.
- 4 a Everyone needs a break from work sometimes.
b Everyone is needing a break from work sometimes.
- 5 a What period of history do you study this term?
b What period of history are you studying this term?
- 6 a The team manager looks bad-tempered in public, but he's always being very kind to young players.
b The team manager looks bad-tempered in public, but he's always very kind to young players.

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

- 1 My father knows (know) all about mending cars, but nothing about bicycles.
- 2 This pie smells (smell) a bit odd. What's in it?
- 3 I don't like (like) the jacket of this suit, but unfortunately the trousers don't fit (not fit) me any more.
- 4 You're very quiet this evening. What are you thinking (you / think) about?
- 5 Who is (be) that man? Why is your sister (your sister / be) so rude to him?
She has (have) such beautiful manners normally.

3 Fill in the gaps with the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs.

- 1 Alex: Why are you wearing (you / wear) my coat?
Ben: Oh, I'm sorry. It looks (look) like mine in this light.
- 2 Carl: I don't have (have) no idea what this sentence means (mean).
Can you translate it?
Donna: No, sorry. I don't understand (not understand) it either.
- 3 Eddie: Are you seeing (you / see) those men near the door? They are looking (look) at us very strangely.
Fergus: Yes. You're right. Are you recognising (you / recognise) them from anywhere?
Eddie: No, but they certainly seem (seem) to know us. They are coming (come) across to speak to us.
- 4 Gina: What are you doing (you / do) in the kitchen? Our guests are waiting (wait) for their dessert, and you are getting (get) in my way!
Hamid: I just want (want) to be somewhere quiet for a while. Everyone is being (be) so noisy this evening! I don't know (not know) why – it's very unusual.

4 Complete the email using the present simple or present continuous form of these verbs.

behave come cost eat enjoy feel go have like love pay realise say
seem serve show smile stay take visit

Dear Stephanie,

How are you? We're fine. Our trip round the States (1) is going well and we (2) _____ ourselves a lot. One good surprise is that things (3) _____ less here than back home. For example, this weekend we (4) _____ in a motel beside a lake and we (5) _____ only \$65 per night for a room with a beautiful view.

The only thing we (6) _____ (not) much is the food. Restaurants (7) _____ dinner rather early. We (8) _____ (never) at six o'clock at home so we (9) _____ (not) hungry then and American portions (10) _____ very big to us. Apart from that, we (11) _____ a wonderful time. We (12) _____ lots of interesting little towns and we absolutely (13) _____ the scenery.

People here (14) _____ in a very friendly manner towards strangers. All the shop assistants (15) _____ at us, and everyone (16) _____ 'Have a nice day!' At home, the TV (17) _____ (always) us bad news stories about the States, but in fact, when you (18) _____ here, you (19) _____ it's a really great place. We (20) _____ lots of photos to show you.

Much love,

Mick and Mary



5 Cambridge First candidates made mistakes in the following sentences. Choose the correct verb forms.

- 1 I want / am wanting to help out at the camp this summer.
- 2 Most Spanish companies belong / are belonging to multinationals nowadays.
- 3 I think / am thinking about interviewing my grandfather's friend, who collects vintage cars.
- 4 My father went to that university, so he knows / is knowing all about it.
- 5 Ned has / is having a lot of problems with his teacher at the moment.
- 6 Every town needs / is needing a library, even though everyone has the internet nowadays.