

present simple and continuous, action and non-action verbs

present simple: *I live, he works, etc.*

- 1 I **live** in London. She **works** in a restaurant.
We **don't eat** meat. Jack **doesn't wear** glasses.
Where **do** you **live**? **Does** the supermarket **open** on Sundays?
- 2 She usually **has** cereal for breakfast.
I'm never late for work.
We only **eat out** about once a month.

1.11

- 1 We use the present simple for things that are always true, or happen regularly.
- Remember the spelling rules for third person singular, e.g. *lives, studies, watches*.
 - Use **ASI** (Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) or **QuASI** (Question word, Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) to help you with word order in questions. *Do you know David? What time does the film start?*
- 2 We often use the present simple with adverbs of frequency, e.g. *usually, never*, or expressions of frequency, e.g. *every day, once a week*.
- Adverbs of frequency go **before** the main verb and **after** *be*.
 - Expressions of frequency usually go at the end of the sentence or verb phrase.

present continuous: *be + verb + -ing*

- A **Is** your sister still **going out** with Adam?
B No, they **broke up**. She **isn't going out** with anyone now.
The phone's **ringing**. Can you answer it?
House prices **are going up** very fast at the moment.

1.12

- We use the present continuous (**NOT** the present simple) for actions in progress at the time of speaking, e.g. things that are happening now or around now. These are normally temporary, not habitual, actions.
- Remember the spelling rules, e.g. *living, studying, getting*.
- We also use the present continuous for future arrangements (see 1B).

action and non-action verbs

- A What **are** you **looking for**?
B My car keys.
A I'll help you in a moment.
B But I **need** them now!
A What **are** you **cooking**? It **smells** delicious.
B I'm **making** pasta.
A Great! I **love** pasta.

1.13

- Verbs which describe **actions**, e.g. *cook, make*, can be used in the present simple or continuous. *I'm making lunch. I usually make lunch at the weekend.*
- Verbs which describe **states or feelings (NOT actions)**, e.g. *be, need, love*, are **non-action verbs**. They are not usually used in the present continuous, even if we mean 'now'.
- Common non-action verbs are *agree, be, believe, belong, depend, forget, hate, hear, know, like, love, matter, mean, need, prefer, realize, recognize, remember, seem, suppose, want*.
- Verbs of the senses are normally also non-action, e.g. *look, smell, taste, and sound*.

Verbs that can be both action and non-action

A few verbs have an action and a non-action meaning, e.g. *have* and *think*.

I can't talk now. I'm having lunch. = action (have lunch)

I have a cat now. = non-action (possession)

What are you thinking about? = action (think about sth)

I think this music's great. = non-action (opinion)

a Circle the correct form, present simple or continuous.

- I don't believe / I'm not believing that you cooked this meal yourself.
- 1 Come on, let's order. The waiter comes / is coming.
- 2 Kate doesn't want / isn't wanting to have dinner now. She isn't hungry.
- 3 The head chef is ill, so he doesn't work / isn't working today.
- 4 The bill seems / is seeming very expensive to me.
- 5 We've had an argument and now we don't speak / aren't speaking to each other.
- 6 My mum thinks / is thinking my diet is awful these days.
- 7 Do we need / Are we needing to go shopping today?
- 8 Can I call you back? I have / I'm having lunch right now.
- 9 I didn't use to like oily fish, but now I love / I'm loving it!
- 10 Your cake is wonderful! It tastes / is tasting like one my mother used to make.

b Complete with the present simple or present continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

We don't go to Chinese restaurants very often. (not go)

- 1 I _____ high cholesterol so I never _____ fried food. (have, eat)
- 2 _____ you _____ any vitamins at the moment? (take)
- 3 Don't eat the spinach if you _____ it. (not like)
- 4 _____ your boyfriend _____ how to cook fish? (know)
- 5 We _____ takeaway pizzas once a week. (order)
- 6 What _____ your mother _____? It _____ delicious! (make, smell)
- 7 You look sad. What _____ you _____ about? (think)
- 8 I _____ the diet in my country _____ worse. (think, get)
- 9 How often _____ you _____ seafood? (have)
- 10 I _____ usually _____ red meat. (not cook)



LIVEWORKSHEETS