Present tenses

26 Present simple

We use the present simple to talk about:

- situations or states that are always or usually true: *We **live** in a flat.*
- habits and events or actions that happen regularly, often with adverbs of frequency (e.g. *always, often, usually*) and other time expressions (e.g. *on Mondays, every day, in the morning*): *We **usually get up** at six o'clock. He **goes** to the gym **every week**.*

For adverbs of frequency, see Unit 21.
See Appendix 4: Spelling rules for present simple verbs, page 171.

Affirmative	I/you/we/they **eat**	he/she/it **eats**
Negative	I/you/we/they **don't eat**	he/she/it **doesn't eat**
Question	**Do** I/you/we/they **eat**?	**Does** he/she/it **eat**?
Short answers	Yes, I/you/we/they **do**. No, I/you/we/they **don't**.	Yes, he/she/it **does**. No, he/she/it **doesn't**.

PRACTICE

26a Complete the sentences. Use the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

0 Lorna *often watches* TV in the evening, but Alice *usually reads*. (often / watch, usually read)

1 I'm often tired. I ..... hard and I ..... very much. (work, not relax)

2 My mother ..... to the gym every day, but my father ..... any exercise. (go, not do)

3 Sophia ..... in London, but she ..... the weekend in the country with her parents. (live, often / spend)

4 Jane and Richard ..... to concerts often, but they ..... to music a lot at home. (not go, listen)

5 Angus ..... from Glasgow, but he ..... with a strong Scottish accent. (come, not speak)

6 We ..... to town. We ..... the train – it's quicker. (not drive, usually / catch)

26b Complete the questions and short answers. Use the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

0 A: *Do you usually get up* early? (you / usually / get up) B: No, *I don't*.

1 A: ..... to university? (Tim / go) B: Yes, ...

2 A: ..... out every Sunday? (they / go) B: No, ...

3 A: ..... black? (Sue / always / wear) B: Yes, ...

4 A: ..... tennis every day? (you / play) B: No, ...

5 A: ..... near you? (they / live) B: Yes, ...

6 A: ..... from the USA? (she / come) B: No, ...

26c Complete the interview. Use the present simple of the verbs in the box.

borrow catch drive not use put recycle travel walk ~~work~~

A: Excuse me. I (0) *work* for the local council. Can I ask you about our services? First, (1) ..... you ..... by public transport often?

B: No. My husband and I (2) ..... public transport at all. We (3) ..... everywhere. My daughter usually (4) ..... to school, but she sometimes (5) ..... the bus if the weather's bad.

A: I see. Next, (6) ..... you ..... paper, plastic and glass?

B: Yes, I (7) ..... everything in the containers at the supermarket.

A: Good. Finally, (8) ..... you ..... books from the public library?

B: No, never. We don't have time to read very much.

27 Present continuous

- We use the present continuous to talk about:
  - something that is happening now: *Wait a minute. **I'm texting** my friend.*
  - temporary situations: *She's from Peru, but she**'s studying** in Spain this year.*
- We often use the present continuous with the following time words and phrases: *now, right now, at the moment, today: **We're getting** ready to go out **now**.*

See Appendix 5: Spelling rules for verbs + -ing, page 171.

Affirmative	**Negative**	**Question**
I**'m** eating	I**'m not** eating	**Am** I eating?
you/we/they**'re** eating	you/we/they **aren't** eating	**Are** you/we/they eating?
he/she/it**'s** eating	he/she/it **isn't** eating	**Is** he/she/it eating?

Short answers		
Yes, I **am**.	Yes, he/she/it **is**.	Yes, we/you/they **are**.
No, I**'m not**.	No, he/she/it **isn't**.	No, we/you/they **aren't**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE

27a Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous.

0 My dad watches a lot of sport. This month he *'s watching* the Olympics.
1 You don't usually play well, but today you ..... brilliantly!
2 I usually read novels, but at the moment I ..... anything.
3 We usually have lunch at twelve, but today we ..... lunch at two.
4 He often works on Saturdays, but he ..... today. He's at home.
5 They don't often save money, but at the moment they ..... to buy a car.
6 She usually runs a marathon every year, but this year she ..... any.

27b Complete the conversations. Use the present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

0 A: *Is Donna speaking* Italian to that man? (Donna / speak)
B: Yes, she *is* . She *'s learning* it at night school. (learn)
1 A: ..... the party? (you / enjoy)
B: Yes, we ..... . We ..... a great time. (have)
2 A: What ..... here? (you / do)
B: I ..... for some friends. (wait)
3 A: ..... her computer? (Holly / use)
B: No, she ..... . She ..... any work today. (not do)
4 A: ..... the news at the moment? (they / watch)
B: No, they ..... . They ..... dinner. (prepare)

27c Complete the phone conversation. Use the present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

A: How (0) *'s the holiday going* (the holiday / go)?
B: We (1) ..... (have) a great time! I (2) ..... (learn) to windsurf.
A: Wow! (3) ..... (Gary / take) lessons too?
B: No, he (4) ..... . He (5) ..... (not do) anything except relaxing on the beach and sleeping.
A: (6) ..... (you / get) very brown?
B: Yes, we (7) ..... . And you? (8) ..... (you / enjoy) your holiday?
A: No, I (9) ..... . It's cloudy and cold, but at least it (10) ..... (not rain) today.
B: Oh dear! Listen, I must go now. I'll see you next week. Bye!

28 Present simple or present continuous

Compare the present simple and present continuous:
*He **usually goes** to the cinema on Saturdays, but **today** he's **staying** in.*

PRACTICE

28a Circle the correct answer.



0 Why *do you wear* / *(are you wearing)* a coat? It's hot today.
1 *Do tigers live* / *Are tigers living* in Africa?
2 We *have* / *'re having* a big party in the garden every summer.
3 I *don't eat* / *'m not eating* a lot of chocolate because it's bad for you.
4 Listen, I think someone *calls* / *'s calling* us.
5 This month they *make* / *'re making* a new film starring Johnny Depp.
6 She usually *goes* / *is going* to see her cousins once a month.
7 Martha *cooks* / *'s cooking* lunch at the moment.
8 Film stars *usually buy* / *are usually buying* their clothes at expensive shops.

28b Complete the conversation. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Lisa: Polly! What a surprise! What (0) *are you doing* (you / do) here in York?
Polly: Hi, Lisa! I (1) ..... (buy) a new guitar. Do you remember the band I'm in? Well, we (2) ..... (play) at the Sports Club in Hathern every Saturday night.
Lisa: Great! That's fantastic!
Polly: Yes. What about you? What (3) ..... (you / do) these days?
Lisa: I (4) ..... (still / study) architecture – this is my final year. At the moment I (5) ..... (work) in an architect's office to get some work experience. Listen, I sometimes (6) ..... (go) home to Hathern at the weekend. Can I come and listen to you and your group?
Polly: Of course! There's a great atmosphere at the club! Everyone knows the songs and people (7) ..... (dance) too. We usually (8) ..... (start) playing at eight o'clock.
Lisa: I'll definitely see you soon, then, Polly!

LIVEWORKSHEETS