

## Grammar

## ■ Present time

## Present simple

General truths  
Current habits  
Permanent situations and states  
Telling jokes and other informal stories  
Live sports commentary  
Newspaper headlines  
Reviews and summaries  
Instructions and directions  
Proverbs and sayings  
The future (for fixed events)  
(see Unit 5 for more information)  
The future (in time clauses)  
(see Unit 5 for more information)

The left-hand side of the brain **controls** the right-hand side of the body.  
I **don't** always **go** to lectures that are early in the morning!  
Angie **teaches** French at a local adult education centre.  
So, a man **goes** to see his psychiatrist ...  
Adams **passes** to Kareshi. It's a goal!  
HAWKING **WINS** NOBEL PRIZE  
The film **ends** with us not knowing whether they have been successful or not.  
You **turn** left at the end of the road and the school is up ahead.  
Too many cooks **spoil** the broth.  
Term **ends** on 21<sup>st</sup> December.  
  
I'll be so relieved when I **finish** this crossword.

## Emphatic present simple

To emphasise contrast

Adam doesn't know much about psychiatry but he **does know** quite a lot about psychology.

To emphasise strong feeling

I **do like** playing word games!

## Words and phrases often used with the present simple

always / usually / generally / often / sometimes / rarely / seldom / never / whenever / nowadays / these days / from time to time / every now and then / most/much of the time / It's/That's the last time

## Present continuous

Actions happening now  
Actions happening around now  
Temporary situations and series of actions  
Changing and developing situations

Annoying or amusing habits  
(usually with always)  
Background information in jokes and other informal stories  
The future (for arrangements)  
(see Unit 5 for more information)  
The future (in time clauses)  
(see Unit 5 for more information)

The boys **are doing** their homework right now.  
What book **are** you **doing** in English at the moment?  
We **aren't having** any exams while the lecturers are still on strike.  
More and more people **are recognising** the advantages of being able to speak a foreign language.  
Dan's always **coming up with** the craziest ideas!  
  
A man goes to see his psychiatrist. He's **carrying** a bag full of honey ...  
  
When **are** you **taking** your driving test?  
  
I'll probably be a bit scared when I'm **waiting** outside for the exam to start.

## Words and phrases often used with the present continuous

now / right now / for now / currently / at the moment / for the time being / at present / today / this week/etc / It's/That's the last time

## Present perfect simple

Situations and states that started in the past and are still true

A series of actions continuing up to now

Completed actions at a time in the past which is not important or relevant

Completed actions where the important thing is the present result

Actions completed recently

The future (in time clauses)

(see Unit 5 for more information)

*I've been* a member of MENSA for over five years.

*She's done* a BA, an MA and a PhD so far.

**Have** you ever **read** any books by Edward De Bono?

*She's been awarded* a scholarship to study at Harvard.

*I've just received* my exam results.

Tell me when you've **finished** the report.

### Words and phrases often used with the present perfect simple

since / for / It's the first/second/etc time / before / already / yet / ever / just / still / recently / up to now (up) until now / so far



### vs Grammar

- In American English, the past simple is often used instead of the present perfect simple.  
US: **Did** you **find** the answer yet? UK: **Have** you **found** the answer yet?  
US: I already **found** the answer. UK: I've already **found** the answer.
- In informal American English, *gotten* is sometimes used as a past participle instead of *got* when it means 'obtain', 'become' or 'move'.  
US: I **haven't gotten** the books yet. (= I haven't bought the books yet.) UK: I **haven't got** the books yet.

## Present perfect continuous

Actions and situations continuing up to the present (or just before the present)

The future (in time clauses)

(see Unit 5 for more information)

*We've all been wondering* what to get Tony for his birthday and we just can't decide.

I won't take my driving test until I've **been having** lessons for at least two months.

### Watch out!

- We usually use the present perfect simple to specify a particular number of times/things.  
✓ I've **written** two essays this week.
- We usually use the present perfect continuous to emphasise the duration of an action/situation.  
✓ I've **worked** here for five years. (no emphasis) ✓ I've **been working** here for five years. (emphasises the duration)

### Words and phrases often used with the present perfect continuous

since / for / just / all day/week/etc

## Stative and non-stative uses of verbs

When certain verbs are used to describe states, they are generally used in simple tenses rather than continuous tenses.

Communication	agree, deny, disagree
Thinking	believe, consider, doubt, expect, imagine, know, mean, realise, suppose, suspect, think, understand
Existence	be, exist
Emotions	adore, appeal, appreciate, desire, despise, detest, dislike, envy, fear, feel, forgive, hate, like, love, mind, need, pity, prefer, satisfy, trust, want, wish
Perception	appear, hear, look, notice, recognise, resemble, see, seem, smell, sound, taste
Possession and relationships between things	belong, concern, consist, contain, cost, depend, equal, fit, have, include, involve, lack, measure, owe, own, possess, suit, weigh
Other	deserve, matter

### Watch out!

- Many of the verbs above can also be used in continuous tenses when they describe actions rather than states. These verbs include: appeal, be, consider, depend, feel, have, include, look, mean, mind, see, smell, taste, think, weigh
- ✓ I **think** it's important to know how to use a computer. (state: think = believe)
  - ✓ I'm **thinking** about going on a computer course. (action: think = consider)

**A Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, present simple or present continuous, in each gap.**

- 1 My brother ..... (do) a degree at university so I ..... (see) him very often, unfortunately.
- 2 Darren ..... usually ..... (get) home until about eight o'clock.
- 3 I'm sorry to hear that your parents ..... (get) divorced.
- 4 You ..... (go) to the end of the street and ..... (turn) right.
- 5 Why ..... ice ..... (float)?
- 6 It's lovely now the evenings ..... (get) longer, isn't it?
- 7 My dad ..... (eat) meat at all – he's a vegetarian.
- 8 Actually, we ..... (listen) to *The Libertines* at all – this is Pete Docherty's second band, *Babyshambles*.
- 9 A man ..... (walk) into a bar. Ouch! Not a good idea to walk into an iron bar!
- 10 ..... you ..... (phone) me from your mobile? The line's not very good.
- 11 ..... you often ..... (order) things online?
- 12 There's an Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman. They ..... (walk) across the desert when one of them ..... (spot) a camel in the distance ...
- 13 Beckham ..... (have) control of the ball ... It's Beckham ... And he ..... (score)!
- 14 WOMAN ..... (give) €500 MILLION LOTTERY WIN TO CHARITY
- 15 My dad ..... (always / tell) jokes! They're usually rubbish, though.
- 16 'Phil ..... (wear) ties, does he?'  
'Actually, he ..... (wear) a tie to work most days.'

**B Write one word in each gap.**

- 1 Why do you ..... leave the light on when you go out of the room? You wait till you start paying the electricity bill!
- 2 Fifteen teachers are teaching here full-time at .....
- 3 My sister's revising for her GCSEs at the .....
- 4 I'm quite happy living at home for the time ....., but I guess I'll have to get my own place eventually.
- 5 It's true that Ralph calls us quite ....., but most students only call their parents when they need something, don't they?
- 6 We go to the cinema ..... now and then, but only if there's something good on.
- 7 I'm alone in my study bedroom reading ..... of the time.
- 8 Tim ..... goes out to play until he's done all his homework. I just don't allow it!
- 9 I see Lucinda from ..... to time, but not on a regular basis.
- 10 I'm sitting in the garden ..... now talking to you on my mobile.
- 11 That's the last ..... we're inviting Dave to one of our parties!
- 12 Do young people these ..... have more free time than they did in the past?
- 13 My mum fills up with petrol ..... she goes to the supermarket.
- 14 I'm staying in ..... now, but I might go out a bit later on.
- 15 ..... is the last time I ever order from that pizzeria. It was disgusting!

- C** Write a verb from the box in the correct form, present simple or present continuous, in each gap. Use the words in brackets with the verb. Use contractions where possible. You can use the verbs more than once.

contact • do • drive • focus • go • happen • have • like • look • need • say  
sound • take • think • try • work

**Sandy:** Hey, George! How's things? What (1) (you) ..... ?

**George:** Hi, Sandy! Fine! (2) (I / just) ..... some research for that history project.

**Sandy:** (3) (how / it) ..... ?

**George:** Yeah, (4) (it / well) ..... , thanks. The website (5) (I) ..... at now is very good. It's got loads of useful information.

**Sandy:** Great! Listen, the reason (6) (I) ..... you is that my (7) (mum) ..... past the library every morning on the way to work, and (8) (she) ..... she can give you a lift tomorrow morning, if you like.

**George:** Wow, that's really kind of her, but actually (9) (it) ..... long to walk there from here, so (10) (she) ..... to worry. Can you thank her for me, though?

**Sandy:** Sure!

**George:** (11) (what) ..... with your project? (12) (you) ..... a title yet?

**Sandy:** No! (13) (I / even) ..... a topic yet! (14) (I / really) ..... on it at the moment, though. (15) (I) ..... to finish my physics project first.

**George:** Why (16) (you) ..... something on the Second World War? That's interesting.

**Sandy:** No, (17) (I) ..... wars! I'd rather do something (18) (that) ..... more on social history.

**George:** Like what?

**Sandy:** Like the role of women in the Industrial Revolution.

**George:** (19) (that) ..... good.

**Sandy:** (20) (you) ..... so? Okay. Maybe I'll do that, then.

- D** Circle the correct word or phrase.

- Could you explain what 'antidisestablishmentarianism' **means / is meaning**, please?
- Each song **only costs / is only costing** 50 cents at the moment because they're on special offer.
- It **doesn't matter / isn't mattering** which of the books we've studied this term you do your essay on.
- It's only a quick call as **I ring / I'm ringing** from my mobile.
- I think **I recognise / I'm recognising** that woman over there. Wasn't she on that quiz show last night?
- Excuse me, **does the nut cake contain / is the nut cake containing** walnuts? I'm allergic to them.
- I really don't agree / I'm really not agreeing** that capital punishment deters people from committing murder.
- Why **don't you play / aren't you playing** football, Mark? I thought you had a match this afternoon.
- Stay out of this, Simon, it **doesn't concern / isn't concerning** you at all.
- You really **resemble / are resembling** your father when you frown like that.
- If **you're not watching / you don't watch** TV, turn it off!
- The number you have dialled **does not exist / is not existing**. Please try again.
- I want everyone to do exercise H, and that **includes / is including** you too, Anne!
- We're having / We have** the living room repainted so it's probably best if we go into the kitchen.
- Right now, my job **involves / is involving** a huge amount of foreign travel.

**E Write a verb from the box in the correct form, present simple or present continuous, in each pair of sentences.**

appeal • be • consider • depend • feel • have • look • see • smell • think

- 1 A I ..... for a book on fly fishing. Do you have any in stock?  
B Stan ..... like he's in a bad mood this morning.
- 2 A How ..... you ..... about inviting Jackie to come with us on Saturday?  
B Britney ..... very well, so I've told her she can go home.
- 3 A Jan and I ..... buying a new flat.  
B Why ..... you ..... Ray Davis to be a better songwriter than Paul McCartney?
- 4 A We ..... a barbecue right now, so can I call you back this evening?  
B ..... the Deacons ..... a swimming pool?
- 5 A The idea of going to a Greek island really ..... to me.  
B Police ..... for witnesses to the attack.
- 6 A This chicken ..... very fresh. I think I'll throw it away just to be on the safe side.  
B Why ..... you ..... that chicken, Mum?
- 7 A I ..... on you, James. Don't let me down!  
B Whether we get there by six ..... on the traffic.
- 8 A Julian ..... a bit busy at the moment, actually.  
B Guys, you ..... too noisy! Can't you keep it down, please?
- 9 A ..... you ..... Bob would like a CD for his birthday?  
B Oliver said he ..... about moving out of the city.
- 10 A I hear that Doug ..... quite a lot of Katy these days. Is that true?  
B I ..... Manchester United lost again.

**F Each of the words or phrases in bold is incorrect. Rewrite them correctly.**

- 1 Tammy **been** able to swim since she was one year old. ....
- 2 How many articles has Greg **wrote** for *Newsweek*? .....
- 3 Tina and Phil still **not** managed to sell their flat. ....
- 4 **I'm** never been to China – what's it like? .....
- 5 Have you heard? Carol's **breaking** her leg again. ....
- 6 You're lucky you caught me – I've just **came** through the front door. ....
- 7 Why **you haven't tell** Sue yet that you're thinking of dropping out of the course? .....
- 8 Our family **is living** in this village for over two hundred years and we're not leaving now! .....

**G Circle the correct word or phrase. If both are correct, circle both.**

- 1 They've **filled** / **been filling** over six bags with rubbish from the beach already.
- 2 Have you **followed** / **been following** that story in the papers about the elephant that escaped from the zoo?  
Apparently, they've just **caught** / **been catching** it.
- 3 We've **seen** / **been seeing** the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Oxford Street, and we've only been in London for three hours!
- 4 It's the first time I've **heard** / **been hearing** *The Editors* play live.
- 5 Jake and I have **thought** / **been thinking** about where to go on holiday for weeks but we just can't decide.
- 6 You can't want to go to the toilet already – we've only **driven** / **been driving** for about ten minutes so far!
- 7 I've **stood** / **been standing** up all day and my feet are killing me!
- 8 Has Jan **worked** / **been working** for the company since it started?

**H Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, present perfect simple or present perfect continuous. Use contractions where possible.**

- 1 ..... (I / send off) over 18 press releases this morning so far.
- 2 Is it the first time ..... (you / ever / eat) squid?
- 3 ..... (we / wait) for you for the past two hours. Where ..... (you / be)?
- 4 ..... (you / just / receive) an e-mail from Ruth?
- 5 I'm afraid ..... (we / get) any milk. .... (we / expect) a delivery for the past four hours but ..... (they / show up) yet.
- 6 ..... (I / draw up) a list of people to invite to the wedding but .....  
(I / get) very far so far. .... (you / have) any thoughts about it?
- 7 Oh, Clair, my ..... (mum / mean) to ask you for a while. Would you like to come with us to Wimbledon?

**I Write a word from the box in each gap. You can use each word more than once.**

already • before • ever • for • just • recently • since • so • still • until • yet

- 1 I've ..... realised what's different! You've changed your hair.
- 2 My grandmother's been quite ill ..... , so she's coming to stay with us for a week or two.
- 3 We've had broadband at home ..... about 2005.
- 4 Have you really finished your homework ..... ? Okay, you can watch TV, then.
- 5 We've won every match we've played ..... far this season.
- 6 I've always lived in a big house ..... now, so it's taking some time to get used to being in a small flat.
- 7 We can't cancel the party now – I've ..... invited everyone!
- 8 How long has Sue gone abroad ..... ?
- 9 Don't get Matthew that game; I'm pretty sure he's got it .....
- 10 Have you ..... thought of going into business on your own?
- 11 We haven't started ..... so you can join in if you like.
- 12 We've never been to New York ..... , so we're both really looking forward to it.
- 13 Have they been living in the neighbourhood ..... you moved in?
- 14 I ..... haven't found my sunglasses.
- 15 I've been looking for a website like this ..... ages!
- 16 It's strange you should ring now. We've ..... been talking about you.
- 17 Michael, haven't you done your homework ..... ? I think it's time you started, isn't it?

**J Write one word in each gap.**

**Humans and other life forms**

Humans (1) ..... much in common with other life forms on Earth. (2) ..... the very first life forms appeared, all living things have (3) ..... desperately struggling to survive the harsh and changing conditions of our planet. This has (4) ..... adapting to new situations and, in many cases, has (5) ..... to either evolution or extinction. We are (6) ..... alone in making use of the world around us (birds use twigs to build nests, for example) or in being particularly skilful (spiders make intricate webs). Where we (7) ..... differ from other life forms, however, (8) ..... in our ability to record, and learn from, our collective history. In this, it (9) ..... that we (10) ..... unique. (11) ..... is still much mankind (12) ..... not know about the earliest humans, of course, but we are increasingly (13) ..... a species with detailed knowledge about our past. The more we learn, the better (14) ..... our chances of survival in the future. It must also be recognised, however, that we are also the only species on Earth which (15) ..... managed to create the means to destroy the planet we live on.