

## 5A Present simple and present continuous

We use the present simple to talk about facts and things which happen regularly.

*Sam lives in Australia.*

*We wear a uniform at work.*

*I usually wake up at six o'clock.*

We use the present continuous to talk about things that are happening now, or are temporary.

*I'm wearing blue trousers today.*

*I'm going to work by car today.*

*My friend is living in London at the moment.*

We often use the present simple and present continuous together to contrast the usual situation and what is happening now, or is temporary.

### 5.2 Present simple and present continuous

It **doesn't usually** rain in the summer, but it's **raining** today.

I **usually wear** jeans to work, but today I'm **wearing** a suit.

I **don't often** cook, but I'm **cooking** every evening this week.

There are some verbs that describe a state, not an action. We don't normally use these verbs in the present continuous.

*I prefer this music.* NOT *I'm preferring this music.*

*Sorry, I don't understand.* NOT *Sorry, I'm not understanding.*

*I have some new sandals.* NOT *I'm having some new sandals.*

**Look!** Here are some common state verbs:

Feelings: like, love, hate, want, prefer, need.

Thoughts and opinions: know, believe, remember, forget, understand, think

States: be, belong, have (when we talk about relationships or possessions).

1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences and questions.

1 What *do you do* / *are you doing* at the moment?

2 Is he *going* / *Does he go* there often?

3 They're *working* / *work* late tonight.

4 I *never read* / *'m never reading* books.

5 I'm *studying* / *study* in my bedroom now.

6 Most people *finish* / *are finishing* school at eighteen or nineteen years old.

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

1 I \_\_\_\_\_ right now. (read)

2 He \_\_\_\_\_ to New York three times a year. (go)

3 They \_\_\_\_\_ us every summer. (visit)

4 How \_\_\_\_\_ Erica \_\_\_\_\_ to work today? (get)

5 I \_\_\_\_\_ coffee very often. (not drink)

6 We \_\_\_\_\_ a really good TV series at the moment. (watch)

7 I usually \_\_\_\_\_ juice for breakfast. (have)

8 Please be quiet – the baby \_\_\_\_\_. (sleep)

3 Read the information. Then complete the text about Jan.



Jan usually <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ tea and toast for breakfast. He <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a suit. He <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ all day. This week, Jan is on holiday. He <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ coffee and croissants for breakfast. He <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ shorts and a T-shirt. He <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a great time!