

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** / I'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 ¹ **_____** tea and toast for breakfast. He ² **_____** a suit. He ³ **_____** all day. This week, Jan is on holiday. He ⁴ **_____** coffee and croissants for breakfast. He ⁵ **_____** shorts and a T-shirt. He ⁶ **_____** a great time!