

GRAMMAR

Present simple and continuous

We use the present simple to talk about:

- a facts.
- b something that happens regularly.

We use the present continuous for:

- c something that is happening right now or around now.
- d temporary situations.
- e future plans.

We don't use some verbs in continuous forms. These verbs are called **stative verbs** and include:

believe, hate, know, like, love, mean, need, own, prefer, understand, want.

I don't understand this question.

NOT *I'm not understanding* this question.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Mum _____ (work) late this week.
- 2 Look at Dan. He _____ (not concentrate).
- 3 She _____ (play) the guitar and the piano.
- 4 He always _____ (go) swimming on Saturdays.

3 Look at Ex. 1 and 2. Are these time words and phrases used with the present simple (PS) or present continuous (PC)?

at the moment / right now **PC**
never, sometimes, always
every day / week / year
this month / term / week **B**

later, tomorrow, tonight
on Saturdays, at weekends
next week / weekend / month

6 Complete the sentences with the positive or negative form of the verbs in Ex. 5. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 Ruby's very friendly. We really _____ her.
- 2 I _____ how old he is. He looks about 14.
- 3 What _____ this word _____?
- 4 I'm feeling miserable today. I _____ cold weather.
- 5 You're speaking too quickly and I _____ you.

7 Choose the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 We *have* / *'re having* problems with the computers at the moment.
- 2 I *need* / *'m needing* some new shoes.
- 3 Tonight she *goes* / *'s going* to the cinema.
- 4 This term I *have* / *'m having* some art lessons.
- 5 I *never forget* / *'m never forgetting* my keys.