

Present Forms

Present Simple	Present Cont.	Present Perfect	Present Perf. Cont.
permanent situations or states <i>She works as a nurse.</i> <i>She owns a large shop.</i>	temporary situations <i>They're staying at the Park Hotel at present.</i>	recently completed actions <i>She has tidied her room.</i> (She has finished tidying her room. You can see it is tidy now. - evidence in the present)	actions started in the past and continuing up to the present <i>He's been writing a letter for two hours.</i> (He started two hours ago and he's still writing it.)
repeated / habitual actions (especially with frequency adverbs: often, usually etc) <i>I usually get up at 7.30.</i>	actions happening at or around the moment of speaking <i>She is looking for a better job.</i>	actions which happened at an unstated past time and are connected with the present <i>He has lost his keys.</i> (He is still looking for them.)	past actions of certain duration having visible results or effects in the present <i>She's been crying.</i> (Her eyes are red.)
permanent truths or laws of nature <i>Money doesn't buy happiness.</i> <i>Water freezes at 0°C.</i>	repeated actions with "always" expressing annoyance or criticism <i>She's always interrupting me!</i>	personal experiences/ changes which have happened <i>I've lost 10 kilos.</i>	actions expressing anger, irritation, annoyance, explanation or criticism <i>Who has been using my toothbrush?</i> (annoyance)
timetables/programmes (future meaning) <i>The match finishes at 7.45.</i> <i>The plane leaves at 6.05.</i>	fixed arrangements in the near future <i>The Browns are visiting us tonight.</i> (It's all arranged.)	emphasis on number <i>She's written three letters since this morning.</i> <i>She has called on two clients since 12 o'clock.</i>	emphasis on duration (usually with for, since or how long) <i>She's been calling on clients since this morning.</i>
reviews/sports commentaries/ dramatic narrative <i>Meryl Streep acts brilliantly in this film.</i>	changing or developing situations <i>His English is getting better.</i>	<p>Note : live, feel and work can be used either in the Present Perfect or the Present Perfect Cont. with no difference in meaning.</p> <p><i>I've been living/I've lived in Rome for a year.</i></p>	

Time expressions used with :

Present Simple	every day/week/month/year, usually, often, always, rarely, never, sometimes, in the morning/evening/afternoon, at night, on Mondays etc
Present Cont.	now, at the moment, at present, nowadays, today, tonight, always, still etc
Present Perfect	just, ever, never, already, yet (negations & questions), always, how long, so far, recently, since (= from a starting point in the past), for (= over a period of time), today, this week / month etc
Present Perf. Cont.	how long, for, since

Stative Verbs

Verbs describing a permanent state (stative verbs) do not normally have continuous forms. These are:

(1) **verbs of the senses** : see, hear, smell, feel, taste etc (We often use **can** or **could** with these verbs.)

eg. **Can you see that tall boy over there?**) The verbs look, watch and listen express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms. eg. **Be quiet please! I'm listening to the news.** But: **I can't hear you. Can you speak louder, please?** The verbs feel and hurt can be used in either continuous or simple forms, though.

eg. A: **How are you feeling today?** or **How do you feel today?**

B: **My leg is hurting.** or **My leg hurts.**

(2) **verbs of opinion** : agree, believe, consider etc (3) **verbs of emotions** : feel, forgive, hate, like, love etc

(4) **other verbs** : appear (=seem), be, belong, fit (= be the right shape and size for sth), have (=possess),

know, look (= appear), need, prefer, require, want, weigh, wish etc

eg. **He knows where Peter is.** (not **is knowing**)

Some stative verbs (see, smell, taste, feel, think, have etc) have continuous forms but there is a difference in meaning.

STATE	ACTION
I think she's rich. (= I believe)	I'm thinking about your plan. (= I'm considering)
The milk tastes awful. (= it has a bad flavour)	He's tasting the sauce; it might need some salt. (= he's trying its flavour)
He has a pet dog. (= he owns)	He's having dinner now. (= he's eating)
This cloth feels like velvet. (= has the texture)	She's feeling her way in the dark. (= she's finding her way)
I see you're in trouble. (= I understand)	I'm seeing my lawyer tonight. (= I'm visiting)
The kitchen smells of burnt meat. (= has the smell)	Why are you smelling your food? (= trying the smell of)
He comes from Spain. (= he was born in)	He's coming from Spain. (= he's travelling from)
I love holidays. (in general)	I'm loving this holiday. (= I'm enjoying; specific)
Your hair looks great. (= it appears)	She's looking at some old photographs. (= she's examining)
The baby weighs 5 kilos. (= it is)	I'm weighing myself on my new scales. (= I'm finding out my weight)
Ann is very tall.	Ann is being very kind to me these days. (= she's behaving)

Present Forms

4 Match the sentences with the meaning of the tense used in each of them.

1. He drinks a litre of milk every day.
2. Milk contains a lot of vitamins.
3. He is getting stronger.
4. She has just passed her exams.
5. She is having a party at the moment.
6. He has been working all day.
7. She has phoned him three times this morning.
8. He is always borrowing money from me.
9. She has been walking all morning.
(Her feet are aching.)
10. They are getting married next week. (They've already sent the invitations.)

a. emphasis on duration
b. temporary situation
c. repeated action expressing annoyance
d. emphasis on number
e. habitual action
f. recently completed action
g. permanent truth
h. changing or developing situation
i. fixed arrangement in the near future
j. past action of certain duration having visible results in the present

1. e 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

5 Fill in with Present Simple or Present Continuous.

June : Hi, Mum!
Mum : Hello, June. Where 1) ... *are you calling* ...
(you / call) from?
June : I 2) (be) at work at the moment. My boss 3) (have) lunch with his wife now. He 4) (often/take) her to lunch on Tuesdays.
Mum : Well, why 5) (you/phone)? Is there anything wrong?
June : No, I just want you to know that I 6) (come) home next Saturday.
Mum : What time 7) (your train/arrive) in Leeds?
June : It 8) (leave) London at 11 o'clock and 9) (arrive) in Leeds at 2 o'clock.
Mum : See you on Saturday then.



Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. OK
2 The water boils. Can you turn it off? is boiling
3 Look! That man tries to open the door of your car.
4 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about?
5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days.
6 I must go now. It gets late.
7 I usually go to work by car.
8 'Hurry up! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.'
9 I hear you've got a new job. How do you get on?
10 Paul is never late. He's always getting to work on time.
11 They don't get on well. They're always arguing.

6 Underline the correct item.

1. I see / am seeing that the situation is out of control.
2. The sausages are tasting/taste delicious.
3. Do you enjoy/Are you enjoying this party?
4. You haven't said a word all morning. What are you thinking/do you think about?
5. He has/is having a Siamese cat.
6. These flowers are smelling/smell nice.
7. I don't know/am not knowing where she keeps the keys.
8. Why are you feeling/do you feel your pockets? Have you lost anything?
9. Why do you smell/are you smelling the milk? Do you think it has gone off?
10. Anna is Italian. She is coming/comes from Italy.
11. That dress looks/is looking nice on you.
12. Paul listens/is listening to a new record in his room.
13. If you don't look/aren't looking at that comic book, I'd like to see it.
14. Joan weighs/is weighing 50 kilos.
15. Mary is/is being very naughty these days.

7 Fill in with Present Simple or Continuous.

Sue : What 1) are you doing (you/do) now?

Mark : I 2) (look) through these old film magazines. Look, here's an old picture of Jack Nicholson.

Sue : Oh, I 3) (think) he 4) (look) awful! And his suit 5) (not/fit) him properly.

Mark : Yes, I 6) (agree). And he 7) (appear) to be really angry. I wonder what he 8) (think) about.

Sue : He 9) (be) in that new film that's on at the Odeon now, isn't he?

Mark : Yes, I saw it last night. He 10) (look) very different now. He 11) (weigh) a lot more.

Sue : I 12) (hope) it's a good film. I 13) (see) it tonight. Stuart 14) (take) me. Actually, he 15) (be) very nice to me these days.

Mark : He probably 16) (want) to borrow some money.

Sue : I 17) (see). That explains it.

12 Match the sentences with the meaning of the tense used in each of them.

1. Vieira passes to Henry ... and Henry scores!
2. Who's been drinking my orange juice?
3. Light travels faster than sound.
4. He's been watching TV since 6 o'clock.
5. Spencer opens the door and sees the murderer.
6. He lives in Tokyo.
7. I've learnt a lot in this class.
8. The film starts at 11 o'clock.
9. My mother is writing a book.
10. He has written to the Prime Minister.

- a. action started in the past and continuing up to the present
- b. permanent situation
- c. past action at an unstated time connected with the present
- d. sports commentary
- e. personal experience/change which has happened
- f. action happening at/around the moment of speaking
- g. timetable
- h. action expressing irritation
- i. dramatic narrative
- j. law of nature

1. d 2. 3. 4. 5.
 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

13 Put the verbs in brackets into Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous.

Dear Linda,

I'm glad to hear that you are enjoying yourself in Australia. Things at home are the same as usual. Your father 1) has been working (work) very hard. Susan 2) (just/pass) her driving test. Alex 3) (not/write) for weeks, probably because he 4) (study) very hard for his exams. Uncle Tom 5) (build) a shed in the garden. I think it will be ready next month. Mr Brown 6) (not/feel) well recently. He 7) (visit) the doctor four times this month. The dog 8) (have) three puppies. Mrs Smith 9) (not/open) her new shop yet. The decorators 10) (paint) it for weeks. I hope you enjoy the rest of your stay in Australia. 11) (you/see) the famous Opera House yet? Tina sends her love. Write to me soon.

Love,
Mum

14 Fill in with Present S., Present Cont., Present Perfect or Present Perfect Cont.

Arthur : I 1) 've been searching (search) for a house for a week now but so far I 2) (not/find) anything suitable.

Sandra : Why 3) (you/want) to move?

Arthur : Well, the people living next to me 4) (be) the main problem. They 5) (always/argue), especially at night.

Sandra : Oh dear! 6) (you/ ever/complain) to them?

Arthur : Yes, but they 7) (not/stop). They 8) (keep on) making noise. I 9) (not/be able) to sleep well lately, and I 10) (feel) sleepy all week.

Sandra : How awful!



16 Fill in with Present S., Present Cont., Present Perfect or Present Perfect Cont.

Tom : 1) ... *Have you seen*... (you/see) the state of this kitchen? Someone 2)
(wash) clothes in the sink and they're still there!

Fred : Yes, I know. I usually 3)
(use) the bath, but it 4) (be)
too dirty at the moment.

Tom : Why didn't you clean it? You 5)
..... (live) here for two
months now, and I 6)
(never/see) you do any housework.

Fred : What do you mean? I 7)
..... (wash) the dishes at
least three times and I always 8)
..... (make) my bed.

Tom : Rubbish! You 9)
(always/make) a mess and not cleaning
up afterwards.

Fred : What about you? You 10) (always/drink) my milk!

Tom : Don't be ridiculous! Where 11) (you/go)?

Fred : Out! I 12) (see) my girlfriend this evening.

Tom : What about the kitchen?

Fred : Bye!

