

UNIT 1

PRESENT SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS



Present simple

- The present simple has two forms.

I, You, We, They	get, study, watch, go	
He, She, It	+ -s	gets
	or + -es	watches, goes
	or -y+ -ies	studies

- We use **do/does not** + infinitive to make negatives.

I, You, We, They	don't get, study, watch, go
He, She, It	doesn't get, study, watch, go

- We use **do/does** + infinitive to make questions.

Do	I, you, we, they	get, study, watch, go?
Does	he, she, it	get, study, watch, go?

We use the present simple for:

- things that happen regularly.
I walk to school with a friend every day.
My sister doesn't go to the sports club very often.
What do you do on Sundays?
- facts.
We live near my grandparents.
The weather doesn't get very cold here.
- verbs called **state verbs** (we don't normally use these verbs in a continuous form) which describe what we think or feel.
believe, hate, know, like, love, mean, need, own, prefer, understand, want
Mike knows the answer to your question.
Alice doesn't understand what you want.
I don't remember your address.
What does this word mean?
Does your teacher own a sports car?

Practice

- 1** Complete the sentences. Use the present simple form of the verbs.

- _____ (you / prefer) volleyball or basketball?
- Angelo never _____ (choose) sandwiches for lunch because he _____ (not like) bread.
- We _____ (not see) our cousins very often because they _____ (live) in America.
- Where _____ (he / go) after school?
- We _____ (not want) to go home.
- Sara _____ (not play) football but she _____ (watch) it on TV.
- _____ (he / know) the time?
- Emma _____ (study) French.

Present continuous

- We use **am, are, is + -ing** to make the present continuous.

I	am ('m)	playing.
You, We, They	are ('re)	working.
He, She, It	is ('s)	helping.

- We use **'m not, aren't, isn't** to make negatives.

I	'm not	working.
They	aren't	helping.
She	isn't	playing.

- We use **am, are, is** to make questions.

Am	I	helping?
Are	you	working?
Is	he	playing?

We use the present continuous for:

- something that is happening now or around now.
We're doing our homework. (= We're in the middle of it now.)
- temporary situations.
I'm helping my dad in his office this week. (= I don't help him every week.)
- future plans.
They're playing table tennis after school. (= They plan to play table tennis.)

Practice

- 2** Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous form of the verbs.

- I _____ (cycle) to the beach with some friends next weekend.
- My brother _____ (not watch) sport on TV this week because of his exams.
- A:** What _____ (you do) at the moment?
B: We _____ (watch) a nature film because we _____ (study) insects at school now.

- 3** Choose the correct form of the verbs.

- ¹ I sit / I'm sitting on the bus with my friends.
- ² We go / We're going to the match in London. Our team ³ plays / is playing in the final this afternoon, so we're very excited. Our team ⁴ doesn't play / isn't playing in the final very often, but this season ⁵ they play / they're playing really well.
- ⁶ I believe / I'm believing they can win. After the match ⁷ we have / we're having dinner in London.
- ⁸ I want / I'm wanting to go to a restaurant near the stadium but ⁹ they get / they're getting very busy on match days, so ¹⁰ we eat / we're eating at a place in another part of the city.

1 Match the examples to the rules.

- 1 Right now, I'm **taking part** in a competition for young game designers.
- 2 In a few months, I'm **going** on a kayaking trip with my cousin.
- 3 My friends and family **say** I'm a cheerful person.
- 4 This term, I'm **having** tennis lessons.
- 5 I **live** with my parents.

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.

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

- 1 I _____ (get) home at five o'clock every day.
- 2 Mum _____ (work) late this week.
- 3 Look at Dan. He _____ (not concentrate).
- 4 _____ you _____ (do) anything interesting next weekend?
- 5 She _____ (play) the guitar and the piano.
- 6 He always _____ (go) swimming on Saturdays.

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

4 Write six sentences about you. Use the time words and phrases in Exercise 3.

Right now, I'm having an English lesson.

5 Read the information about the verbs. Check the meaning of the verbs you don't know.

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.*

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

- 0 My uncle owns three cars.
- 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 I **write** / **'m writing** to you about a trip we are planning in November.
- 4 Tonight she **goes** / **'s going** to the cinema with some friends.
- 5 This term I **have** / **'m having** some extra maths lessons.
- 6 I **never forget** / **'m never forgetting** my homework.