

Present Tenses

Present simple; present continuous; state verbs; the verb to be

1 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- 1 A My brother lives with us until he can find a flat of his own.
B My brother is living with us until he can find a flat of his own.
- 2 A Megan goes to Hong Kong every January.
B Megan's going to Hong Kong every January.
- 3 A I don't have enough money for a holiday this year.
B I'm not having a long holiday for a holiday this year.
- 4 A Everyone needs a break from work sometimes.
B Everyone is needing a break from work sometimes.
- 5 A What period of history do you study this term?
B What period of history are you studying this term?
- 6 A The team manager looks bad-tempered in public, but he's always being very kind to young players.
B The team manager looks bad-tempered in public, but he's always very kind to young players.

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

- 1 My father **knows** (know) all about mending cars, but nothing about bicycles.
- 2 This pie _____ (smell) a bit odd. What's in it?
- 3 I _____ (like) the jacket of this suit, but unfortunately the trousers _____ (not fit) me anymore.
- 4 You're very quiet this evening. What _____ (think) about?
- 5 Who _____ (be) that man? Why _____ (*your sister/be*) so rude to him?
She _____ (have) such beautiful manners normally.

3 Fill in the gaps with the present simple or present continuous forms of the verbs.

- 1 **Alex:** Why **are you wearing** (you / wear) my coat?
Ben: Oh, I'm sorry. It _____ (look) like mine in this light.
- 2 **Carl:** I _____ (have) no idea what this sentence _____ (mean). Can you translate it?
Donna: No, sorry. I _____ (not understand) it either.

3 Eddie: _____ (see) those old men near the door? They _____ (look) at us very strangely.

Fergus: Yes you're right (you / recognise) them from anywhere?

Eddie: No, but they certainly _____ (*seem*) to know us They _____ (*come*) across to speak to us.

Hamid: I just _____ (want) to be somewhere quiet for a while. Everyone _____ (be) so noisy this evening! I _____ (not know) why - it's very unusual.

4 Complete the email using the present simple or present continuous of the verbs.

behave **come** **cost** **eat** **enjoy** **feel** **have** **like** **love** **pay**
realise **say** **seem** **serve** **show** **smile** **stay** **take** **visit**

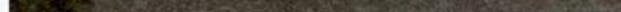
Dear Stephanie,

How are you? We're fine. Our trip round the States (1) is going well and we (2) are ourselves a lot. One good surprise is that things (3) cost less here than back home. For example, this weekend we (4) stayed in a motel beside a lake and we (5) paid only \$65 per night for a room with a beautiful view.

The only thing we (6) _____ (not) much is the food. Restaurants (7) _____ dinner rather early. We (8) _____ (never) eat at six o'clock at home so we (9) _____ (not) hungry then and American portions (10) _____ very big to us. Apart from that, we (11) _____ a wonderful time. We (12) _____ lots of interesting little towns and we absolutely (13) _____ the scenery.

People here (14) _____ in a very friendly manner towards strangers. All the shop assistants (15) _____ at us, and everyone (16) _____ 'Have a nice day!'

At home, the TV (17) _____ (always) us bad news stories about the States, but in fact, when you (18) _____ here, you (19) _____ it's a really great place.



We **(20)** _____ lots of photos to show you.

