

# 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.
- 4 **Gina:** What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) in the kitchen? Our guests \_\_\_\_\_  
(wait) for their dessert, and you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) in my way!
- 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) \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves a lot. One good surprise is that things (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
less here than back home. For example, this weekend we (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in a motel beside  
a lake and we (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) 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.

Much love,  
Mick and Mary

