

## Grammar

### Present Simple vs. Present Continuous

Complete the following sentences using these verbs (present simple/present continuous)

have | taste | think | see | smell

- 1) In my opinion, coffee \_\_\_\_\_ delicious. That is why I drink it every day.
- 2) Teresa \_\_\_\_\_ about the book she read yesterday.
- 3) George \_\_\_\_\_ a shower at the moment.
- 4) I \_\_\_\_\_ that Ireland is a beautiful country.
- 5) The cook over there \_\_\_\_\_ his soup to be sure it's delicious.
- 6) 'She lives here but works in Barcelona during the week.' 'Oh, I \_\_\_\_\_.'
- 7) This lotion \_\_\_\_\_ lovely, what's it called?
- 8) They \_\_\_\_\_ a house in Times Square.
- 9) I \_\_\_\_\_ my doctor next week.
- 10) The boy over there \_\_\_\_\_ some roses. Maybe he'll give them to his mother.

### Match the sentences with their functions

Kate **is working** at a restaurant until she finds a job in her field.

SLOW CHANGES

Mark **is reading** a book at the moment.

TEMPORARY HABITS

You **are constantly losing** umbrellas.

TEMPORARY ACTIONS

More and more people **are getting** ready to travel by plane.

FIXED PLANS

We **are going** to the cinema at the weekend.

ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

John **is drinking** a lot of coffee this week!

IRRITATING HABITS

## Present Perfect vs. Present Perfect Continuous

### Match the sentences with their functions

The road is wet. It **has been raining**.

TEMPORARY ACTIONS OR STATES

Monika **has done** her homework.

REPEATED ACTIONS

I **have been living** in Cork since I left university.

EMPHASIS ON DURATION

I **have lived** in Dublin since I was born.

EVIDENCE OF RECENT PAST ACTIVITY

He's **been getting** this brochure every week for a year.

USED WITH ACTION VERBS

Monika **has been doing** her homework.

EMPHASIS ON COMPLETION

I **have known** him for eighteen years.

PERMANENT ACTIONS OR STATES

Complete the following sentences with the present perfect or present perfect continuous forms of the verbs in **bold**

1) The bathroom's in an awful mess! What \_\_\_\_\_ (**the children/do**)?

2) The police \_\_\_\_\_ (**look for**) the missing woman for three days now.

3) Sebastian loves London. He \_\_\_\_\_ (**be**) there many times.

4) I \_\_\_\_\_ (**watch**) the news every evening.

5) He \_\_\_\_\_ (**work**) at our company since 2015.

6) She \_\_\_\_\_ (**write**) four books and she is working on another one.

7) Mark \_\_\_\_\_ (**watch**) TV for hours; that's why his eyes are red.

8) Usually I study at home, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (**study**) in the library for the last week.

9) I \_\_\_\_\_ (**have**) my cat for nine years.

10) We \_\_\_\_\_ (**finish**) our exams. We're very happy.

## FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

A family portrait is a valuable picture – (0) .... is fun to look at now, it's great for relatives far (16) .... , and it will bring back memories in the years to come. Families change quickly as children grow, (17) .... don't wait, whatever your position in the family – photograph your family group now, and plan to make this (18) .... regular event. Your family album isn't really complete (19) .... this record of all of you together.

Getting the (20) .... of the family together isn't always easy, and so you will need to plan ahead to be sure (21) .... has time to pose. A relaxed, friendly feeling is (22) .... makes the picture, and you can't expect people to relax (23) .... they're in a hurry to do (24) .... else. Make your plans when you're all together and (25) .... a cheerful, friendly mood – say, during a meal, and set a time convenient (26) .... everyone.

A family portrait takes some technical planning, too. Make (27) .... your mind in advance (28) .... room you want to use; choose your camera position and check the lighting. If you want to be in the picture, make sure you know exactly (29) .... the self-timer on your camera operates. With most cameras, you'll have from eight (30) .... twelve seconds to get into the picture after you press the shutter button.

Read the text and write ONE word that best fits each gap. Write the words next to the numbers

0. *it*

16.

17.

18.

19.

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30.

You are going to read a newspaper article about people who have no brothers or sisters.  
For questions 1-10 choose from the people A-E

Which person...

1. realises that the positive relationship they had with their parents isn't shared by all only children?
2. thinks people make a judgement about only children which is mistaken?
3. thinks they developed a better understanding of adults because of being an only child?
4. finds their present circumstances a challenge?
5. says that only children have needs which can be difficult for others to deal with?
6. realised at a particular point that they were happy being an only child?
7. was unaware that their reactions to being an only child were not unique?
8. had problems as a child because they lacked a necessary skill?
9. says they accept their situation because they don't know anything different?
10. mentions a positive benefit of spending a lot of time alone?

## Being an only child

*"What's it like to spend a lifetime without brothers and sisters?" asks Joanna Moorhead.*



### A Sam Thompson, aged 10

When my mum's friend had a baby, it made me think about being an only child for the first time. I thought, would I like to have brothers and sisters? But to be honest, my friend's sister looked quite annoying – he was always having to watch her and I decided I was better off on my own. There are lots of good things about being an only child. I have privacy, and I like that; some of my friends have to share a bedroom and I know that will never happen to me. Plus I get time on my own with Mum and Dad, and that's very special.



### B Jasmine Weller, aged 13

I always felt a bit different from other kids, and just thought it was something about me. Then I made friends with three other people who are all only children. I suddenly realised that they felt a lot like me. We all need to spend quite a lot of time on our own, and some of our friends with brothers and sisters find that strange – they think we don't like them or something. However, there are pluses, too. I think it's good to be able to entertain yourself sometimes, and my mum says I've got a great imagination.



### C Bethany Shaw, aged 15

One of the bad things about being an only child when you're young is the reaction you get from other people. They think you're spoilt – you see that look in their eyes. And then you have to prove you're not spoilt, although you know you're not and nor are most only children. In general, I think the negatives outweigh the positives, but on the other hand it's all I've known and I'm OK with it.



### D Leah Mitchell, aged 29

I went away to school when I was seven, and the hardest thing I found was making friends. Because I was an only child, I just didn't know how to do it. The thing is that when you're an only child, often there aren't any other children at a gathering. I found being an only child interesting, in that it gave me a place at the grown-ups' table and gave me a view into their world that children in a big family might not get. And I know it has, at least partly, made me into the person I am: I never like the idea of being one of a group, for example. I'm not comfortable with being one of a gang.



### E Laura Arnold, aged 36

I know some only children feel stifled by their parents' constant demands and worries, but that wasn't my experience. I found being an only child enriching, which I think is mainly because we get on so well. I've got two children now and I do find that scary. The problem is I've absolutely no experience of this kind of situation; nothing in my past has prepared me for having to divide myself between the needs of these two little people, and the guilt is hard when I feel I've not been there enough for one of them. And on a practical level, things like sibling rivalry are going to be a whole new ball game.