1. Simple Present

Use the simple present to talk about repeated things or routine related actions. The simple is used by adding the base form of the verb after the subject (affirmative/interrogative) and after don't/doesn't (negatives, unless we're using the To Be verb, in which case we use isn't/aren't). If we are using the third person singular (he, she, it, Marie, Clair, John…) than we'll add 's' or 'es' to the end of the verb (affirmative), for questions and negatives we'll use doesn't, in which case we'll not change the verb.

Ex.: I cook dinner, but he cooks dinner.
I go out on weekends, but he goes out on weekends.
He walks to school, but the doesn't walk to the park.

2. Simple Past

Use the simple past to talk about complete actions in the past. The simple past is used by adding 'ed' at the end of the verb, unless the verb is an irregular, in which case there's no rule and we must memorize each of them. If we are using the negative, instead of adding 'ed' we'll use didn't/did not + the base form of the verb. Same for the interrogative.

Ex.: I cooked dinner last night, but I didn't cook breakfast this morning.
He planned a party for his girlfriend, but he didn't plan the hangover.
Ann and Peter called me last night, but they didn't call John.

3. Present and past Continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about something that is happening at a certain moment in the present or past. To use the continuous, we'll use the correct form of the 'To Be' verb (is/are/was/were) + main verb + -ing

Ex.: It's 7 o'clock in the evening and he's cooking dinner, but he isn't cleaning the kitchen.
At 8 o'clock in the morning they were cooking breakfast, but they weren't eating it.

Your turn! Complete the sentences below with the correct form of the verb:

a) I usually don't eat (not/eat – present) breakfast.
b) They didn't eat (not/eat – past) breakfast yesterday.
c) The dog _____ (be – past) barking a lot last night.
d) My neighbour _____ (complain – past) about the noise, I _____ (tell – past) you we should've been quieter.
e) My name _____ (be – present) Camila, I _____ (be – past) born in Minas Gerais and now I _____ (live – present continuous) in São Paulo with my boyfriend, sister, brother-in-law, and niece. I _____ (graduate – past) as an engineer a few years ago and now I _____ (commute – present) to and from work by bus every morning. On Mondays and Wednesdays, I _____ (have – present) English classes and on Tuesdays and Thursdays I _____ (take/walk) with my boyfriend. My English teacher, Miss Reis, _____ (be – present) the best, we have known each other for years now, she _____ also _____ (teach – present continuous) the love of my life, and we simply love her! The other day I _____ (come – past continuous) home from work late and I _____ (have – past simple) to cancel our class, it _____ (be – past) the saddest day of my week. When we _____ (be

LIVEWORKSHEETS

– simple past) young, Miss Reis and I, _____ (use to / play) dolls and _____ (talk) for hours every day. We _____ (be – simple past) in the same class for years and after that we even _____ (live – simple past) together for a little while. When I _____ (go – simple past) to SJP for vacations a few weeks ago, we _____ (meet – simple past) each other for wine and dine with a few other friends, we _____ (talk – simple past) a lot and _____ even _____ (share – past continuous) the straw while drinking some fancy coffee drink. What _____ you _____ (think) of that night? I hope you _____ (enjoy – simple past) as much as I did.

Your turn again! Write 3 sentences using the verbs given (one affirmative, one negative and on interrogative)

Simple present:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Simple past:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Present continuous:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Past continuous:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS