

Grammar Section

Unit 1: Imperative, Present Simple vs Present Continuous, Frequency adverbs, Stative verbs, Present Perfect Simple, Present Perfect Simple vs Past Simple, Present Perfect Continuous, *since / for / how long*

Imperative

- We form the imperative with the base form of the verb.
We form the negative form with **don't + base form**.
Listen to the CD! Don't speak!
- We use the imperative to ask someone to do something.
We can use 'please' to be more polite.
Open your books, please!

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

I work	He sleeps
Do you work?	Does she sleep?
They don't work	It doesn't sleep
I'm working	He's sleeping
Are you working?	Is she sleeping?
They aren't working	It isn't sleeping

We use the Present Simple:

- for permanent states.
Sam works in a bank.
- for habits or actions that happen regularly.
I always eat an egg for breakfast.
- for general truths.
Water boils at 100 °C.
- for an action that takes place according to a schedule.
My plane leaves at 12 o'clock.

We use the Present Continuous:

- for temporary states.
I'm doing a language course this month.
- for actions happening at the moment of speaking.
The dog is eating now.
- for future arrangements.
We're visiting Ireland this summer.
- with adverbs of frequency (*constantly, always*, etc.) to express annoying habits.
He is always leaving his clothes on the floor!
- In time clauses referring to the future after *while* to emphasise the duration of an action.
While you are getting ready, I'll call a taxi.

TIME EXPRESSIONS

Present Simple	Present Continuous
usually, always, often, occasionally, hardly ever, etc.	now, at the moment, at present
every day/week, etc.	today, these days
in the morning/spring, etc.	this week/year, etc.
on Mondays/Monday morning, etc.	tonight, tomorrow, etc.
at the weekend, etc.	next week/year, etc.
once/twice/three times, etc.	
a week/day, etc.	

Frequency adverbs

The adverbs of frequency (*always, often, usually, sometimes, rarely, never*) are usually placed before the main verb, but after the verb *be*.

She is never on time.

Do you always buy this brand?

I usually have a nap after lunch.

Stative verbs

The following verbs are **not** normally used in **continuous tenses**. They are called **stative verbs**.

- Verbs of the senses:** feel, see, hear, smell, taste, notice, seem, look (= seem), etc.
- Verbs of emotions and preferences:** love, hate, like, dislike, want, need, prefer, mind, etc.
- Verbs of perception and opinion:** think (= believe), believe, know, understand, remember, forget, hope, mean, imagine, etc.
- Other verbs:** be, have (= possess), own, belong, cost, etc.

NOTE

Some stative verbs can be used in continuous tenses, but with a different meaning.

- think (= process in one's mind)
I'm thinking about my summer holidays.
- see (= meet, visit)
He's seeing the doctor tonight.
- have (= drink, eat, take)
She's having dinner with a friend.
- taste (= try food)
Mum's tasting the soup to see if it's ready.
- look (= see)
Why are you looking at me?

Present Perfect Simple

I have worked	He has slept
Have you worked?	Has she slept?
They haven't worked	It hasn't slept

We use the **Present Perfect Simple**:

- for actions which happened in the past, but we don't mention when exactly.
I've lost my sunglasses.
- for actions that happened in the past and their results are obvious in the present.
Derek has washed his car.
- for actions which were completed a short time ago (usually with *just*).
I've just bought this CD. Do you like it?
- after time expressions like *after*, *as soon as*, *before*, etc. referring to the future to emphasise the completion of an action.
As soon as they have repaired our car, we will go on holiday.

TIME EXPRESSIONS

always, ever, never, before, so far, yet, already, just, once, twice, for, since, how long, recently, etc.

NOTE

- **have/has gone** means that someone has gone somewhere and is still there.
Joan has gone to the gym. (She's still there.)
- **have/has been** means that someone has visited a place but has come back.
Joan has been to China. (Now she's back.)

Present Perfect Simple vs Past Simple

WE USE THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE:

- for actions that happened in the past, but we don't say when exactly.
I have eaten Mexican food.
- for actions that started in the past and are still happening in the present.
Ted has worked as a waiter for two years. (= he is still working).

WE USE THE PAST SIMPLE:

- for actions that happened at a definite time in the past. We say when.
I ate Mexican food last night.
- for actions that started and were completed in the past.
Ted worked as a waiter when he was a student.

Present Perfect Continuous

I have been working	He has been sleeping
Have you been working?	Has she been sleeping?
They haven't been working	It hasn't been sleeping

WE USE THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS:

- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present.
The children have been watching TV for four hours.
- for actions which were happening for a period of time in the past and may have finished, but their results are obvious in the present.
He's exhausted. He's been cleaning the house all day.

Since/for

- We use the **Present Perfect** with **for** and **since** for actions that started in the past and continue up to the present.

since + a point in time

It refers to the time when the action started.

*I've had this car since 2001.
(How long have you had this car?)*

for + a period of time

It refers to the duration of the action.

*I've had this car for five years.
(How long have you had this car?)*

Present Perfect Simple + since + Past Simple

Julia has changed jobs three times since she came to Luton.

Grammar Practice

A Complete the gaps with the Present Simple or the Present Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

My best friend, Julie, (1) _____ (work) at the Playtime toy shop. She (2) _____ (like) working there because she (3) _____ (meet) lots of people every day, especially children. She (4) _____ (love) children and she (5) _____ (enjoy) showing them how the toys work. The shop (6) _____ (open) at 10 a.m. and (7) _____ (close) at 6 p.m. Julie (8) _____ (not mind) working long hours but her workmates (9) _____ (always / complain) because they (10) _____ (think) the job is tiring. This week, Julie (11) _____ (not work) at the shop. She has taken some time off work. However, she (12) _____ (not sit) at home relaxing. She (13) _____ (work) at a friend's restaurant. You see, she (14) _____ (need) the extra money because she (15) _____ (want) to buy a car.



B Complete the email making sentences with the prompts given. Use the Present Simple or the Present Continuous.

Dear Maria,

Hello! / I / be / in Hawaii / this week / .

(1) _____

I / have / a great time / !

(2) _____

I / relax / at last / .

(3) _____

Every morning / I / wake up / eleven o'clock / .

(4) _____

I / usually / have / big breakfast and then

(5) _____

I / go / for a swim / .

(6) _____

In / afternoon / I / always / watch / sunset / . / It / be / beautiful / !

(7) _____

I / get / ready / go out / now / so / I / must / end / here / .

(8) _____

I / have / dinner / restaurant by the sea / tonight / .

(9) _____

I'll see you when I get back.

Love,

Helen

C Look at the prompts and write sentences. Use the Present Perfect Simple or the Present Perfect Continuous and for or since.

1. I / know / Sarah / she was ten

2. Enrique / learn / English / two years

3. we / have / this car / 1995

4. Amy and Ian / be / married / twenty years

5. I / want / to fly to the moon / I was a child

6. Ryan / be / unemployed / last year

7. my father / work / in this company / ten years

8. Heather / have / a bad cold / the past week

9. we / wait / for you / six o'clock this morning

10. it / rain / continuously / past two days

D Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Perfect Simple or the Present Perfect Continuous.

1. **Kelly:** Look at Dennis! He's so dirty! _____ (he / play) in the mud?
Brian: No, he _____ (not play) in the mud. He _____ (play) football.
2. **Tom:** Hi, Sally! Where's Belinda? I _____ (wait) for her since four o'clock.
_____ she _____ (forget) about our date?
Sally: No, she _____ (not forget) about your date. She _____ (go) to the dentist and is going to be late.
3. **Lisa:** I _____ (work) hard all week and I _____ (not see) Jill.
_____ you _____ (see) her? Is she still on holiday?
Debbie: No, she isn't. _____ you _____ (not hear)? She came back on Wednesday but she's in hospital now. She _____ (break) both her legs.

E Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Perfect Simple, the Present Perfect Continuous or the Past Simple.

Dear Mario,

Hello! I hope everything is going well at home. I (1) _____ (enjoy) myself a lot here at Snowy Mountain. We (2) _____ (be) up here for five days. We (3) _____ (arrive) here on Wednesday and soon (4) _____ (settle) into our beautiful cabin, in the middle of the forest.

The weather (5) _____ (be) nice so far. It (6) _____ (snow) a couple of times but we (7) _____ (not have) any snowstorms, so we (8) _____ (be) able to go out a lot.

It's 10.00 p.m. now, and I'm lying in my bed feeling exhausted. We (9) _____ (explore) three caves today. We (10) _____ (also / climb) lots of nearby slopes. Don't worry. We (11) _____ (not have) any accidents yet.

On Friday, we (12) _____ (go) to Bear Slope. Our guide (13) _____ (tell) us to be careful because the area is full of wild animals. I (14) _____ (not see) any, but Tony says that he (15) _____ (see) a bear. Can you believe it? Everyone knows that bears hibernate during winter!

Since we (16) _____ (arrive), we (17) _____ (also / learn) how to survive in extreme weather conditions. We (18) _____ (learn) how to build a shelter out in the snow. Isn't that great? I wish you were here with us!

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Love,
Jerry

