Unit 1 Grammar

Present simple, present continuous, stative verbs

Present simple

Form

statement	negative	question
I/you/we/they **play** ...	I/you/we/they **do not (don't) play** ...	**Do** I/you/we/they **play** ...?
He/she/it **plays** ...	He/she/it **does not (doesn't) play** ...	**Does** he/she/it **play** ...?

Use	Example
Present habits	Marsha **goes** to dance lessons every Saturday.
Permanent situations	**Does** Dan **work** at the cinema?
States	I **like** the new James Bond film.
General truths	You **play** chess with 32 pieces.

Watch out! The verbs *be* and *have* have irregular present forms. See page 182.

Helpful hints

The present simple is often used with the following words and phrases:

adverbs
- *always* • *usually* • *often*
- *sometimes* • *rarely* • *never*

phrases
- *every Monday/week/etc*
- *each Monday/week/etc*
- *once/twice a week/month/etc*
- *three times a week/month/etc*

Remember that these adverbs usually go before the verb, but **after** the verb *be*.
- I **often** play football with my friends.
- I am **often** late for my piano lessons.

Present continuous

Form

statement	negative	question
I **am ('m) playing** ...	I **am not ('m not) playing** ...	**Am** I **playing** ...?
He/she/it **is ('s) playing** ...	He/she/it **is not (isn't / 's not) playing** ...	**Is** he/she/it **playing** ...?
You/we/they **are ('re) playing** ...	You/we/they **are not (aren't / 're not) playing** ...	**Are** you/we/they **playing** ...?

Use	Example
Actions happening now	Jan **is watching** a DVD upstairs.
Temporary situations	She **is working** at the museum until the end of the month.
Annoying habits (usually with *always*)	My brother **is always borrowing** my CDs without asking!

Helpful hints

The present continuous is often used with the following words and phrases:
- *now* • *right now* • *at the moment*
- *today* • *this week/month/etc*

Stative verbs

Form

Stative verbs do not usually describe actions. They describe states (feelings, thoughts, etc). They are not normally used in continuous tenses.

✓ I **like** reading books in my free time.
✗ ~~I **am liking** reading books in my free time.~~

Some common stative verbs:

appear	*include*	*see*
be	*know*	*seem*
believe	*like*	*taste*
belong to	*love*	*think*
hate	*need*	*understand*
have	*prefer*	*want*

Watch out! Some of these verbs (such as *be*, *have* and *think*) are used in continuous tenses when they describe actions.
✓ What **do** you **think** about his new song?
✓ I'**m thinking** about last night's match.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Look at the pictures of Helen and use the prompts to write sentences. Use the correct form of the present simple.



every day / get up / at half past seven



once a week / watch a film at the cinema



often / eat fast food for lunch



rarely / go to the gym



in the evening / usually / meet her friends for coffee



have a driving lesson / twice a week

1 Every day, Helen gets up at half past seven.

2 .....

.....

3 .....

.....

4 .....

.....

5 .....

.....

6 .....

.....

B Complete using the correct present continuous form of the verbs in brackets. You may have to use some negative forms.

1 Gordon? I think he ..... (**write**) a letter at the moment.
2 Yes, the match is on TV now, but we ..... (**lose**).
3 Right now, Margaret ..... (**have**) a shower. Do you want to ring later?
4 Sally ..... (**stay**) with her aunt for a few days.
5 I ..... (**lie**)! It's true! I did see Madonna at the supermarket.
6 Josh ..... (**always / use**) my bike! It's so annoying.
7 We ..... (**have**) lunch, but I can come round and help you later.
8 ..... (**you / play**) music up there? It's really noisy!

C Rewrite correctly. Change the words or phrases in bold.

1 **Are top musicians studying** for many years? .....
2 What's going on? I hope you **don't touch** my things! .....
3 It's a small business, so each person **is doing** lots of different jobs. .....
4 **Does Christine listen** to the radio, or is that the TV I can hear? .....
5 I **am usually buying** a special ticket each week for the bus because it's cheaper. .....
6 Our washing machine **is starting** when you press this button. .....
7 How's the match going? **Does our team win?** .....
8 Many people **are enjoying** spending time on the beach on holiday. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Circle the correct word or phrase.

1 I **work / am working** at the local library for the summer.
2 We **don't go / aren't going** to the theatre very often.
3 Stacy **gets / is getting** ready for school, so she can't come to the phone.
4 **Does Gary ever talk / Is Gary ever talking** about his expedition to the Amazon jungle?
5 In squash, you **hit / are hitting** a ball against a wall.
6 I **read / am reading** a newspaper at least once a week.
7 **Do you practise / Are you practising** the piano for two hours every day?
8 Nadine and Claire **do / are doing** quite well at school at the moment.
9 A good friend **knows / is knowing** when you're upset about something.
10 How **do you spell / are you spelling** your name?

E Complete using the correct present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in the box. You may have to use some negative forms.

belong • do • have • help • hold • move • use • watch

1 In Monopoly, you ..... around the board, buying houses and hotels.
2 ..... you ..... this programme or can I turn the TV off?
3 Regular exercise ..... you to stay healthy.
4 I ..... my brother's guitar until I get a new one.
5 ..... Simon always ..... the washing-up after lunch?
6 ..... you ..... any sweaters in a larger size?
7 You ..... the kite right. Let me show you.
8 Dad ..... to the local astronomy club.

F Underline ten verbs in the wrong tense and rewrite them correctly.

'One game I am loving is backgammon. You are throwing the dice and then you move your pieces around the board. It is seeming quite easy, but in fact you are needing to be quite careful. When your piece lands on one of the other person's pieces, you are taking it off the board and you send it back to the beginning. You are winning by getting all your pieces to the end and off the board. Some people are preferring chess, but I am not understanding that game. Right now, I wait to have a game with my brother. He does his homework. I usually win, so I think he doesn't want to play a game with me!'

1 .....
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
10 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS