



Grammar 1

Present simple, present continuous, stative verbs

1 Read about the uses of the present simple, the present continuous and stative verbs.

Present simple

- facts and permanent situations
I live in a big house with my extended family.
- general truths and laws of nature
The sun sets in the evening.
- habits and routines
We always visit New York in the summer.
- timetables and programmes (future)
My partner's plane arrives at five o'clock.
- reviews, stories and sports commentaries
The story is about a young girl and her friend.

Present continuous

- actions happening at the time of speaking
Dad is making dinner in the kitchen.
- temporary or changing situations
My cousin is staying with us for the holidays.
She is becoming more and more frustrated.
- annoying habits, often with adverbs like always
My coach is always criticising me.

- plans and arrangements (future)
She isn't seeing her friends tomorrow.

Stative verbs

Stative verbs describe states (not actions). Common stative verbs talk about feelings, emotions, the senses, states of mind and possession. We do not use them in continuous tenses.

My mother hates doing household chores.
My colleagues look very cheerful today!
Some experts believe peers are more important to teens than family.

However, some verbs can be both stative and action verbs, but with a change in meaning.

My baby brother appears to be sleeping.
(present simple = seems)
My classmates and I are appearing in a play about relationships.
(present continuous = performing)

2 Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous. In which sentence could you use both, but with a change in meaning?

- a I _____ (see) my friends at the gym.
b My colleagues and I _____ (discuss) the new project right now.
c I _____ (usually ask) my coach for his advice.

Read 1.1-1.3 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

3 Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous.

- 1 _____ (you / understand) why teens think their peers are important?
2 My teacher _____ (always criticise) me! It drives me crazy!
3 Mum and Dad _____ (not give) my brother and me money for cleaning our room.
4 At what temperature _____ (water / freeze)?
5 We _____ (have) a huge get-together for all our relatives on Sunday.
6 In this story, Papa Bear _____ (sit) in his chair first.
7 My colleagues _____ (not work) this weekend.
8 _____ (your son / ever talk) to strangers?
9 _____ (you / cook) supper for your family every evening?



4 Circle the correct words to complete the text.

Teens and pocket money

Some parents complain that their children ¹ are always asking / ask always for money. Many teens ² get / are getting pocket money for helping with chores around the house and the amount of money they earn ³ increases / is increasing regularly. This is because things ⁴ are becoming / become more and more expensive all the time. Parents of teens ⁵ are often worrying / often worry about whether they should give their children pocket money and if they choose to do so, they ⁶ usually have / are usually having a hard time deciding how much to give them. It ⁷ seems / is seeming that there really is no 'correct' amount. One way for parents to decide how much to give their children is to ask other parents what they ⁸ do / are doing when it comes to pocket money. Many of them will say that they ⁹ provide / are providing their children with a certain amount of money each week. If their children ¹⁰ are wanting / want to buy something special, they can save this money until they have got enough or they can do extra chores around the house for a few weeks.