

5C present simple or present continuous?

present simple

It always **snows** here in winter.
What **do you** usually **do** at work?
My sister **works** in a bank.

present continuous 5.20

Look! It's **snowing**.
What **are you doing** now?
Today she's **working** at home.

What do you do? or What are you doing?

A What **do you do**? (= What's your job?)

B I'm a teacher.

A What **are you doing**? (= now, at the moment)

B I'm waiting for a friend.

- We use the **present simple** to say what we usually do, or things that are normally true.
- We often use the **present simple** with adverbs and expressions of frequency, e.g. *always, often, once a week, etc.*
- We use the **present continuous** to say what is happening now or around now.
- We often use the **present continuous** with *at the moment, today, this week.*

a Circle the correct form.

- A What do you cook / are you cooking? I'm really hungry.
 B Spaghetti. We can eat in ten minutes.
- 1 A Hello. Is Martin at home?
 B No, he isn't. *He plays / He's playing* football with his friends.
- 2 A *Do your parents live / Are your parents living* near here?
 B Yes. They *have / are having* a flat in the same building as me.
- 3 A How often do you go / *are you going* to the hairdresser's?
 B About once a month. When my hair needs / *is needing* a cut.
- 4 A Don't make a noise! Your father *sleeps / is sleeping*!
 B Is he OK? He *doesn't usually sleep / isn't usually sleeping* in the afternoon.

b Put the verbs in the present simple or continuous.

Look. It's raining. (rain)

- 1 A Hi, Sarah! What _____ you _____ here? (do)
 B I _____ for a friend. (wait)
- 2 A Let's have lunch. _____ you _____ hamburgers? (like)
 B No, sorry. I'm a vegetarian. I _____ meat. (not eat)
- 3 A Listen! The neighbours _____ a party again. (have)
 B They _____ a party every weekend! (have)
- 4 A What _____ your boyfriend _____? (do)
 B He's a teacher. He _____ at the local school. (work)

5C GRAMMAR present simple or present continuous?

Put the verbs in the present simple or present continuous. Use contractions where possible.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 A What <u>are</u> you <u>doing</u> ? (do)
B I'm <u>checking</u> my emails. (check) | 10 A Why ¹⁴ _____ you _____? (cry)
B Because I ¹⁵ _____ a very sad film. (watch) |
| 2 A What ¹ _____ you _____ of your new phone? (think)
B It's great! It ² _____ really good photos. (take) | 11 A Why ¹⁶ _____ the train _____? (stop)
B Because this is the slow train. It ¹⁷ _____ at every station. (stop) |
| 3 A What's that music?
B My neighbours ³ _____ a party. (have) | 12 A When ¹⁸ _____ you usually _____ your friends? (see)
B On Friday night. We always ¹⁹ _____ after work. (meet) |
| 4 A Where ⁴ _____ you _____? (go)
B To my parents' house for lunch. We usually ⁵ _____ there for lunch on Sundays. (go) | 13 A What time ²⁰ _____ you usually _____ work? (finish)
B About 6.00, but I ²¹ _____ late this evening. (work) |
| 5 A Hi, Nora! What ⁶ _____ you _____ here? (do)
B I ⁷ _____ for a friend. (wait) | 14 A What ²² _____ you _____ for? (look)
B My car keys! I always ²³ _____ them in my bag, but they aren't there now. (put) |
| 6 A Where's Simon?
B In the bathroom. He ⁸ _____ a shower. (have) | 15 A How often ²⁴ _____ you _____ exercise? (do)
B I ²⁵ _____ in the sea every morning. (swim) |
| 7 A What's the answer to number five?
B Sh! I ⁹ _____ to the teacher. (listen) | 16 A Be quiet! Your mum ²⁶ _____ to watch a film on TV. (try)
B Sorry! She hardly ever ²⁷ _____ TV in the afternoon. (watch) |
| 8 A ¹⁰ _____ you _____ a uniform for work? (wear)
B Yes. I ¹¹ _____ it. It's horrible. (not like) | |
| 9 A Look! It ¹² _____. (rain)
B Again? It ¹³ _____ a lot here. (rain) | |

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21–27 Excellent. You understand the difference between the present continuous and the present simple.

15–20 Quite good, but check the rules in the Grammar Bank (Student's Book p.132) and look at the exercise again.

0–14 This is difficult for you. Read the rules in the Grammar Bank (Student's Book p.132). Then ask your teacher for another photocopy and do the exercise again at home.

ACTIVATION

Work with a partner. Talk about two things you do every day, and two things you're doing at the moment.