1A

GRAMMAR BANK

present simple and continuous, action and non-action verbs

present simple: *I live, he works,* etc.

1 I **live** in London. She **works** in a restaurant. 1.11
We **don't eat** meat. Jack **doesn't wear** glasses.
Where **do** you **live**? **Does** the supermarket **open** on Sundays?
2 She usually **has** cereal for breakfast.
I'm never late for work.
We only **eat out** about once a month.

1 We use the present simple for things that are always true, or happen regularly.
- Remember the spelling rules for third person singular, e.g. *lives, studies, watches.*
- Use **ASI** (**A**uxiliary, **S**ubject, **I**nfinitive) or **QuASI** (**Qu**estion word, **A**uxiliary, **S**ubject, **I**nfinitive) to help you with word order in questions. *Do you know David? What time does the film start?*

2 We often use the present simple with adverbs of frequency, e.g. *usually, never,* or expressions of frequency, e.g. *every day, once a week.*
- Adverbs of frequency go before the main verb and after *be*.
- Expressions of frequency usually go at the end of the sentence or verb phrase.

present continuous: *be* + verb + *-ing*

A **Is** your sister still **going out** with Adam? 1.12
B No, they broke up. She **isn't going out** with anyone now.
The phone**'s ringing**. Can you answer it?
House prices **are going up** very fast at the moment.

- We use the present continuous (**NOT** the present simple) for actions in progress at the time of speaking, e.g. things that are happening now or around now. These are normally temporary, not habitual, actions.
- Remember the spelling rules, e.g. *living, studying, getting.*
- We also use the present continuous for future arrangements (see **1B**).

action and non-action verbs

A What **are** you **looking for**? 1.13
B My car keys.
A I'll help you in a moment.
B But I **need** them now!
A What **are** you **cooking**? It **smells** delicious.
B **I'm making** pasta.
A Great! I **love** pasta.

- Verbs which describe **actions**, e.g. *cook, make,* can be used in the present simple or continuous. ***I'm making** lunch. I usually **make** lunch at the weekend.*
- Verbs which describe **states** or **feelings** (**NOT** actions), e.g. *be, need, love,* are **non-action verbs**. They are not usually used in the present continuous, even if we mean 'now'.
- Common non-action verbs are *agree, be, believe, belong, depend, forget, hate, hear, know, like, love, matter, mean, need, prefer, realize, recognize, remember, seem, suppose, want.*
- Verbs of the senses are normally also non-action, e.g. *look, smell, taste,* and *sound.*

Verbs that can be both action and non-action
A few verbs have an action and a non-action meaning, e.g. *have* and *think.*
I can't talk now. I'm having lunch. = action (*have lunch*)
I have a cat now. = non-action (possession)
What are you thinking about? = action (*think about sth*)
I think this music's great. = non-action (opinion)

a Circle the correct form, present simple or continuous.

I don't believe / I'm not believing that you cooked this meal yourself.
1 Come on, let's order. The waiter *comes / is coming.*
2 Kate *doesn't want / isn't wanting* to have dinner now. She isn't hungry.
3 The head chef is ill, so he *doesn't work / isn't working* today.
4 The bill *seems / is seeming* very expensive to me.
5 We've had an argument and now we *don't speak / aren't speaking* to each other.
6 My mum *thinks / is thinking* my diet is awful these days.
7 *Do we need / Are we needing* to go shopping today?
8 Can I call you back? *I have / I'm having* lunch right now.
9 I didn't use to like oily fish, but now *I love / I'm loving* it!
10 Your cake is wonderful! It *tastes / is tasting* like one my mother used to make.

b Complete with the present simple or present continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

We *don't go* to Chinese restaurants very often. (not go)
1 I _____ high cholesterol so I never _____ fried food. (have, eat)
2 _____ you _____ any vitamins at the moment? (take)
3 Don't eat the spinach if you _____ it. (not like)
4 _____ your boyfriend _____ how to cook fish? (know)
5 We _____ takeaway pizzas once a week. (order)
6 What _____ your mother _____? It _____ delicious! (make, smell)
7 You look sad. What _____ you _____ about? (think)
8 I _____ the diet in my country _____ worse. (think, get)
9 How often _____ you _____ seafood? (have)
10 I _____ usually _____ red meat. (not cook)

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LIVEWORKSHEETS