

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.
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.

1.11

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 (Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) or QuASI (Question word, Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) 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).

a Circle the correct form, present simple or continuous.

I don't believe / I'm not believing that you cooked this meal yourself.

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

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)

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)

- I have high cholesterol so I never eat fried food. (have, eat)
- You take any vitamins at the moment? (take)
- Don't eat the spinach if you like it. (not like)
- Your boyfriend know how to cook fish? (know)
- We order takeaway pizzas once a week. (order)
- What make your mother smell? It smell delicious! (make, smell)
- You look sad. What think you about? (think)
- I get the diet in my country worse. (think, get)
- How often eat you seafood? (have)
- I usually eat red meat. (not cook)

p.8