

LANGUAGE FOCUS: SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS VERB FORMS – STATE or NON-ACTION VERBS



Simple verb forms see actions as complete and / or permanent.

Continuous verb forms see actions as "in progress" and /or temporary.

State verbs are usually not used in the continuous.

1. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE.

- a) *I've visited / I'm visiting* the science museum three times.
- b) *I've been expecting / I've expected* him to call but he hasn't yet.
- c) I usually watch pop programmes but these days *I'm watching / I've watched* Riverdale.
- d) She *gets up / is getting up* early at weekends.
- e) My dad *has always been making / is always making* silly jokes.
- f) *I've been calling him / I've called him* for the last ten minutes – why doesn't he hurry up?
- g) I can't come out because *I'm doing / I do* my homework.
- h) My sister *has worked / works* as a record producer and she is loving / loves her job.
- i) My parents *have sold / are selling* our car so I have to work everywhere!
- j) *She's sold / She's selling* over 6000 records his week alone!

2. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.

- a) _____ (you / visit) art gallery in your free time?
- b) I _____ (spend) all my money on videogames so I've got none left.
- c) He _____ (always / change) his mind. It's really annoying!
- d) I _____ (never / play) basketball. Is it fun?
- e) He has a lot of experience performing because he _____ (sing) since he was a child.
- f) _____ (you/ ever / take part) in a film?
- g) _____ (she / come) from London or from Brighton?
- h) We _____ (watch) a film at the moment so I'll call you later.

3. LOOK AT EACH SET OF STATEMENTS AND DECIDE WHICH IS BETTER.

- a) I passed my guitar exam a year ago.
- b) I've passed my guitar exam a year ago.

- a) He is at home. She's just spoken to him.
- b) He is at home. She just spoke to him.

- a) Malik was a model for a few months and then he gave it up.
- b) Malik has been a model for a few months and then he has given it up.

- a) He took piano lessons when he was a teenager.
- b) He has taken piano lessons when he was a teenager.

- a) I've never been to the Greek islands.
- b) I never went to the Greek islands.

4. **COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE WITH EITHER THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE OR THE PAST SIMPLE FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.**

1.

- a) She _____ (be) a singer for over six years now.
- b) She _____ (be) a singer for over six years now in the 1990s.

2.

- a) I _____ (break) my mobile so I'll have to get a new one.
- b) I _____ (break) my mobile but I manage to fix it.

3.

- a) I _____ (go) to a big pop concert.
- b) I _____ (go) to a big pop concert in March.

4.

- a) He _____ (take part) in a lot of singing competitions.
- b) He _____ (take part) in a singing competitions when he was at school.

5.

- a) Taylor Swift _____ (just / release) a new album.
- b) Taylor Swift _____ (release) an album two years ago.

5. **COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT MEANS THE SAME AS THE FIRST SENTENCE, USING THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.**

- a) I started my science project last week.
I _____ (do) my science project for a week.
- b) It's Monday today. I started studying last Wednesday.
I _____ (study) since Wednesday.
- c) It's 3 pm. At 10 am. my friend called.
I _____ (speak) to my friend this morning.
- d) I've had DVD for a month.
I _____ (buy) that DVD a month ago.