

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 1090s.
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.