

1A Simple present and present continuous; action and state verbs



1.2

I **check** my e-mails every morning.
I **need** to access the Internet.
My sister **has** a new job.

I'm **replying** to your message right now.
Are you **enjoying** your vacation?
My parents **are having** breakfast.

Simple present

We use the simple present to talk about things that are always true.

They speak Portuguese in Brazil. The sun sets in the west.

We also use the simple present to talk about regular routines.

I start work at 8:45. My brother gets up at 6:30 every day.

We often use the simple present with frequency adverbs and expressions.

We never go shopping on Saturdays. They often go to the beach on the weekend.

Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about actions that are happening now.

He's speaking to his sister on Skype right now. I'm waiting for you at the bus stop.

We also use the present continuous to talk about actions that are temporary.

She's living with her parents at the moment. I'm studying economics this year.

Action and state verbs

We can use the simple present and present continuous with verbs that describe an action.

I play soccer on Wednesday evenings.

I'm playing a soccer game on my computer right now.

We usually use the simple present, not the present continuous, with verbs which describe a state.

She doesn't like her new haircut. NOT ~~*She isn't liking her new haircut.*~~
I don't understand. What do you mean? NOT ~~*I'm not understanding. What are you meaning?*~~

I own a car. NOT ~~*I'm owning a car.*~~

state verbs

feelings	like, love, hate, want, prefer, need <i>Enjoy</i> is used in the continuous tense: <i>I'm enjoying the party.</i>
thoughts and opinions	know, believe, remember, forget, understand, think, feel, consider, realize, expect, agree, suppose, doubt, mean
states	be, have (possess), exist, seem, appear, belong, own, matter
senses	taste, sound, look, feel, hear, smell

Look! Some verbs can be both action and state verbs, with different meanings.

I'm thinking about my vacation. (the action of thinking = action verb)

I think this website is the best. (an opinion = state verb)

He's having steak and French fries. (the action of eating = action verb)

He has a white sports car. (a possession = state verb)

I'm feeling happy. (the action of having an emotion = action verb)

It feels soft. (the sense = state verb)

1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 They ~~don't want~~ / ~~aren't wanting~~ to go swimming today because it's too cold.
- 2 I ~~prefer~~ / ~~'m preferring~~ this coffee – it ~~tastes~~ / ~~'s tasting~~ much better than that coffee.
- 3 I can't talk to you right now. We ~~have~~ / ~~'re having~~ lunch.
- 4 Why ~~do you wait~~ / ~~are you waiting~~ for the bus? There aren't any buses after midnight!
- 5 I ~~don't understand~~ / ~~'m not understanding~~ this movie because they're speaking too fast.
- 6 We ~~think~~ / ~~'re thinking~~ all museums should be free.
- 7 He ~~works~~ / ~~'s working~~ in the library this morning.
- 8 That suitcase ~~belongs~~ / ~~is belonging~~ to me.

2 Complete the sentences with the simple present or present continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 I _____ (talk) to my boss at the moment. Can I call you back in five minutes?
- 2 They _____ (send) me a birthday card every year.
- 3 I _____ (leave) the office now. I'll call you later.
- 4 You look really tired. I _____ (think) you _____ (need) to go to bed now.
- 5 I'm so hungry! I _____ (think) about dinner.
- 6 I can't talk now. I _____ (study) in the library.
- 7 I _____ (stay) at my best friend's house at the moment.
- 8 My Internet connection _____ (not work) today.

3 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.



I ¹ _____ (not understand) why some people
² _____ (believe) that we ³ _____ (talk) to
 each other much less than in the past. I ⁴ _____
 (own) a smartphone, and I ⁵ _____ (use) it all
 the time. I ⁶ _____ (send) messages to my
 friends several times a day, and I often ⁷ _____
 (call) them for a chat. It's true that we ⁸ _____
 (have) very busy lives nowadays and that we
⁹ _____ always _____ (not speak) face to
 face. It ¹⁰ _____ (seem) to me that electronic
 devices ¹¹ _____ (make) our lives much easier.
 For example, I ¹² _____ (write) this blog now
 while I ¹³ _____ (sit) on the train.