

# Present Tenses- revision

Read the examples carefully & choose the correct phrase to complete the rules:

**PRESENT SIMPLE** (base form + s/es/ies for 3<sup>rd</sup> person sg)

**PRESENT CONTINUOUS** (am / is / are + Ving)

1. He usually (a) **gets up** early to go to work, but today (b) **he's sleeping in**.
  - (a) present simple used for: **routines (1) / annoying habits (2)**
  - (b) present continuous used for: **temporary break from routine (1) / habitual actions (2)**
2. I usually believe what he says, but **I'm not believing** **don't believe** him now.
  - In the case of **state (1) / action (2)** verbs we normally use the present simple, not the present continuous
3. She **is being** selfish.
  - Even though *be* is a state verb, we **can** use it in the present continuous **to say that nothing has changed (1) / to express a change in behaviour (2)**
4. It seldom **rains** here.
  - present simple used for: **annoying habits (1) / repeated actions (2)**
5. It's always **raining**! How I wish I lived somewhere else...
  - There are exceptions when we **can** use the present continuous with adverbs of frequency (*always...*), but only to stress that the action is **irritating (1) / ordinary (2)**.
6. I'm **smelling** your flowers.
  - We don't normally use the present continuous with verbs of perception (*hear, smell, touch, see...*) because they are usually state verbs. However, there are exceptions when we **can** use them in the present continuous, but they either change meaning or type (they are no longer states, they are actions – like in **example 6 (1) / example 7 (2)**)
7. Your flowers **are smelling** **smell** lovely.
  - Smell is a verb of perception, so we normally use it in the present simple, because it expresses a **state (1) / action (2)**.

**PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE** (have / has + V3)

**PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS** (have / has + been + Ving)

1. He **has** just **received** his results.
  - We normally use the present perfect simple to express a recent past action that happened at an unspecified time in the **past (1) / present (2)**
2. The dog ~~has attacked~~ **attacked** the intruder last night.
  - When the time is specified (*last night*) we **always** use the **present perfect (1) / past simple (2)**
3. I **have been writing** this long letter I need to send since morning.
  - We use the present perfect continuous to express an action that started in the past and which is **still (1) / not (2)** going on in the present.
4. **It's been ages since** you **last made** a cake.
  - you can use "it has been ages" (AmE) OR "it's ages" (BrE)
  - **Fixed (1) / Flexible expression (2)**: Present Perfect ... SINCE ... Past Simple!
5. This is the second time you **have lost** your keys.
  - **Fixed (1) / Flexible expression (2)**: This is the first / second / third / etc time + PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE!