present tenses

Revise the basics

present simple and frequency

1 **She goes** abroad a lot. **NOT** ~~*She go*~~
2 **Does he know** Paris well? **NOT** ~~*Do he know*~~
3 **We don't like** camping. **NOT** ~~*We not like*~~
4 **They never go** swimming. **NOT** ~~*Never they go*~~
5 **He's always late.** **NOT** ~~*Always he's late*~~
6 **I go for a walk every morning.** **NOT** ~~*I go every morning for a walk.*~~

present continuous

7 **He's working** today. **NOT** ~~*He working*~~
8 **They aren't / They're not watching** TV, **they're playing** a video game. **NOT** ~~*They not watching*~~
9 **Are you going away** this weekend? **NOT** ~~*Do you go / You are going*~~

action and non-action verbs

1 **A** What **are** the children **doing** now? 2.10
B Mark**'s playing** tennis and Anna**'s reading**.
A Hi, Marta. **Are** you **waiting** for someone?
B Yes, I**'m waiting** for Tim.
2 I **like** vegetables now, but I didn't use to.
Oh, now I **remember** where I left my glasses.

1 Many verbs describe actions. These verbs are used in the present continuous to talk about actions happening now or in the future.

2 Some verbs describe states and feelings, not actions. Examples are *agree, be, believe, belong, depend, forget, hate, hear, know, like, look like, love, matter, mean, need, prefer, realize, recognize, remember, seem, suppose, understand, want*. These verbs are normally used in the present simple, not the continuous, even if we are referring to now.

verbs which can have action and non-action meanings

Do you **have** any sunscreen? = possession (non-action) 2.11
He**'s having** a shower at the moment. = an action
Do you **think** we should have lunch in the hotel? = opinion (non-action)
They**'re thinking** of going on a cruise. = an action
I **see** what you mean. = understanding (non-action)
I**'m seeing** the hotel manager tomorrow morning. = an action

- Some verbs have two meanings, an action meaning and a non-action meaning, e.g. *have, think, see*. If they describe a state or feeling, not an action, they are not usually used in the present continuous. If they describe an action, they are used in the present continuous.

present continuous for future arrangements

I**'m leaving** tomorrow and I**'m coming back** on Tuesday. 2.12
We**'re seeing** our grandparents this weekend.
When **are** they **coming** to visit us?
Ella **isn't going out** tonight. She**'s staying in**.

- We often use the present continuous where there is an arrangement to do something in the future.

present simple for 'timetable' future

The train **leaves** at 6.30 in the morning. 2.13
Our flight **doesn't stop** in Hong Kong. It **stops** in Singapore.
What time **does** your flight **arrive** in New York?

- We use the present simple to talk about things which will happen according to a timetable, especially travel times. We are usually referring to things which always happen on certain days at certain times, like flight times or classes, and are not people's personal plans or decisions.

a Circle the correct form.

We're going / We go to New Zealand on Saturday. The flight [1] *leaves / is leaving* at 6.50 in the morning. [2] *We need / We're needing* to check in two hours ahead, so [3] *we go / we're going* to the airport the night before, and [4] *we stay / we're staying* in an airport hotel (£200 a night, but it's better than getting up at 2.00 a.m.!). The first part of the flight, to Singapore, [5] *takes / is taking* 14 hours, and [6] *we break / we're breaking* the journey there for a couple of days. Then it's on to Auckland. The flight [7] *gets in / is getting in* at nearly midnight, but our friends [8] *meet / are meeting* us at the airport, and [9] *they look after / they're looking after* us for a week or so. Then [10] *we travel / we're travelling* round North and South Island – [11] *we rent / we're renting* a camper van. [12] *We have / We're having* to be back in Auckland on 22nd February, but I don't think I'll want to come home!

b Complete the sentences with the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Do you *know* Andrew's sister? (know)
1 _____ you _____ camping or staying in hotels? (prefer)
2 We _____ of going on a safari next year. (think)
3 _____ we _____ to pack insect repellent? (need)
4 She _____ to Frankfurt for a business meeting next week. (fly)
5 **A** Can I help you?
B Yes, I _____ a charger for my phone. (look for)
6 **A** This hotel _____ a restaurant. (not have)
B It _____, we can eat in town. (not matter)
7 **A** Hi. Can you hear me? What _____ you _____? (do)
B I _____ by the pool and Tanya _____ a spa treatment. Where are you? (read, have)
8 **A** What time _____ our flight _____? (leave)
B It _____ at 9.50 and it _____ at 12.10. (leave, arrive)

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