

Present tenses

26 Present simple

We use the present simple to talk about:

- situations or states that are always or usually true: *We live in a flat.*
- habits and events or actions that happen regularly, often with adverbs of frequency (e.g. *always, often, usually*) and other time expressions (e.g. *on Mondays, every day, in the morning*): *We usually get up at six o'clock. He goes to the gym every week.*

► For adverbs of frequency, see Unit 21.

► See Appendix 4: Spelling rules for present simple verbs, page 171.

Affirmative	I/you/we/they eat	he/she/it eats
Negative	I/you/we/they don't eat	he/she/it doesn't eat
Question	Do I/you/we/they eat?	Does he/she/it eat?
Short answers	Yes, I/you/we/they do. No, I/you/we/they don't.	Yes, he/she/it does. No, he/she/it doesn't.

PRACTICE

26a Complete the sentences. Use the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

- Lorna *often watches* TV in the evening, but Alice *usually reads* (often / watch, usually read)
- I'm often tired. I hard and I very much. (work, not relax)
- My mother to the gym every day, but my father any exercise. (go, not do)
- Sophia in London, but she the weekend in the country with her parents. (live, often / spend)
- Jane and Richard to concerts often, but they to music a lot at home. (not go, listen)
- Angus from Glasgow, but he with a strong Scottish accent. (come, not speak)
- We to town. We the train – it's quicker. (not drive, usually / catch)

26b Complete the questions and short answers. Use the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

- A: *Do you usually get up* early? (you / usually / get up) B: No, *I don't*
- A: to university? (Tim / go) B: Yes,
- A: out every Sunday? (they / go) B: No,
- A: black? (Sue / always / wear) B: Yes,
- A: tennis every day? (you / play) B: No,
- A: near you? (they / live) B: Yes,
- A: from the USA? (she / come) B: No,

26c Complete the interview. Use the present simple of the verbs in the box.

borrow catch drive not use put recycle travel walk work

- A: Excuse me. I (1) *work* for the local council. Can I ask you about our services? First, (1) you by public transport often?
- B: No. My husband and I (2) public transport at all. We (3) everywhere. My daughter usually (4) to school, but she sometimes (5) the bus if the weather's bad.
- A: I see. Next, (6) you paper, plastic and glass?
- B: Yes, I (7) everything in the containers at the supermarket.
- A: Good. Finally, (8) you books from the public library?
- B: No, never. We don't have time to read very much.

27 Present continuous

- We use the present continuous to talk about:
 - something that is happening now: *Wait a minute. I'm texting my friend.*
 - temporary situations: *She's from Peru, but she's studying in Spain this year.*
- We often use the present continuous with the following time words and phrases: *now, right now, at the moment, today: We're getting ready to go out now.*

► See Appendix 5: Spelling rules for verbs + -ing, page 171.

Affirmative	Negative	Question
I'm eating	I'm not eating	Am I eating?
you/we/they're eating	you/we/they aren't eating	Are you/we/they eating?
he/she/it's eating	he/she/it isn't eating	Is he/she/it eating?
Short answers		
Yes, I am.	Yes, he/she/it is.	Yes, we/you/they are.
No, I'm not.	No, he/she/it isn't.	No, we/you/they aren't.

PRACTICE

27a Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous.

- 0 My dad watches a lot of sport. This month he *'s watching* the Olympics.
- 1 You don't usually play well, but today you brilliantly!
- 2 I usually read novels, but at the moment I anything.
- 3 We usually have lunch at twelve, but today we lunch at two.
- 4 He often works on Saturdays, but he today. He's at home.
- 5 They don't often save money, but at the moment they to buy a car.
- 6 She usually runs a marathon every year, but this year she any.

27b Complete the conversations. Use the present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 A: *Is Donna speaking* Italian to that man? (Donna / speak)
B: Yes, she *is* She *'s learning* it at night school. (learn)
- 1 A: the party? (you / enjoy)
B: Yes, we We a great time. (have)
- 2 A: What here? (you / do)
B: I for some friends. (wait)
- 3 A: her computer? (Holly / use)
B: No, she She any work today. (not do)
- 4 A: the news at the moment? (they / watch)
B: No, they They dinner. (prepare)

27c Complete the phone conversation. Use the present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- A: How (0) *'s the holiday going* (the holiday / go)?
B: We (1) (have) a great time! I
(2) (learn) to windsurf.
- A: Wow! (3) (Gary / take) lessons too?
B: No, he (4) He (5) (not do) anything except relaxing on the beach and sleeping.
- A: (6) (you / get) very brown?
B: Yes, we (7) And you? (8) (you / enjoy) your holiday?
- A: No, I (9) It's cloudy and cold, but at least it
(so) (not rain) today.
- B: Oh dear! Listen, I must go now. I'll see you next week. Bye!

28 Present simple or present continuous

Compare the present simple and present continuous:

He usually goes to the cinema on Saturdays, but today he's staying in.

PRACTICE

28a Circle the correct answer.

- 0 Why do you wear / *are you wearing* a coat? It's hot today.
- 1 Do tigers live / *are tigers living* in Africa?
- 2 We have / *'re having* a big party in the garden every summer.
- 3 I don't eat / *'m not eating* a lot of chocolate because it's bad for you.
- 4 Listen, I think someone calls / *'s calling* us.
- 5 This month they make / *'re making* a new film starring Johnny Depp.
- 6 She usually goes / *is going* to see her cousins once a month.
- 7 Martha cooks / *'s cooking* lunch at the moment.
- 8 Film stars usually buy / *are usually buying* their clothes at expensive shops.



28b Complete the conversation. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- Lisa: Polly! What a surprise! What (0) *are you doing* (you / do) here in York?
Polly: Hi, Lisa! I (1) (buy) a new guitar. Do you remember the band I'm in? Well, we (2) (play) at the Sports Club in Hathers every Saturday night.
- Lisa: Great! That's fantastic!
Polly: Yes. What about you? What (3) (you / do) these days?
Lisa: I (4) (still / study) architecture – this is my final year. At the moment I (5) (work) in an architect's office to get some work experience. Listen, I sometimes (6) (go) home to Hathers at the weekend. Can I come and listen to you and your group?
- Polly: Of course! There's a great atmosphere at the club! Everyone knows the songs and people (7) (dance) too. We usually (8) (start) playing at eight o'clock.
- Lisa: I'll definitely see you soon, then, Polly!