

Contrast: present simple and present continuous

I can distinguish the use of the present simple and present continuous.



Hi, Adam. I'm in the park with some friends. Do you want to join us?

What are you doing?

At the moment, we're listening to Sue. She's playing the guitar.

Is she good?

She's OK. She's getting better. She has guitar lessons every week. So are you coming?

I don't know. We're moving house next weekend, so I need to help my parents. We're packing boxes today.

That's a shame. We're playing volleyball later.

I love volleyball! Maybe just for an hour ...

Sure. A game of volleyball doesn't take long. See you later! ☺

1 Describe the photo. What are the people doing? Use the verbs below.

laugh play sit smile wear

The girl on the left is playing the guitar.

2 Read the messages above. Why does Adam change his mind about going to the park?

LEARN THIS! Present tense contrast

We use:

- a the ¹present simple for something that happens regularly, always or never.
- b the ²_____ for something happening at this moment.
- c the ³_____ for something happening around this time.
- d the ⁴_____ for stating a fact.
- e the ⁵_____ with certain verbs that we do not usually use in continuous tenses: *believe, know, like, love, need, understand, want, etc.*
- f the ⁶_____ for future arrangements.

3 Find examples of the present simple and present continuous in the messages in exercise 2. Then read the **Learn this!** box and complete the rules.

4 Match each example you found in the messages with the correct rule (a–f) in the **Learn this!** box.

5 Work in pairs. Explain the difference between sentences a and b in each pair.

- 1 a I'm doing my homework after school.
b I do my homework after school.
- 2 a Joe is learning to drive.
b Many teenagers learn to drive when they are seventeen.
- 3 a Mark plays the guitar.
b Mark is playing the guitar.
- 4 a We aren't going on holiday in August.
b We don't go on holiday in August.

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6 **1.03** Complete the phone dialogue. Use the correct present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

Toby Hi!
Leia Hi, Toby. What ¹are you doing (you / do)?
Toby I'm at the sports centre. I ²_____ (wait) for Tom.
Leia ³ _____ (you / go) swimming?
Toby No, we ⁴ _____ (play) table tennis. We ⁵ _____ (play) every Saturday morning. But he's really late!
Leia What ⁶ _____ (he / do)?
Toby I ⁷ _____ (not know). He ⁸ _____ (not answer) his phone. Anyway, where are you?
Leia I'm at the shopping centre, but I ⁹ _____ (not buy) anything today. I ¹⁰ _____ just ¹¹ _____ (look).
Toby ¹² _____ (you / like) table tennis?
Leia Sure! But I ¹³ _____ (not wear) sports clothes.
Toby ¹⁴ _____ (you / wear) trainers?
Leia Yes, I am – with jeans and a T-shirt.
Toby That's fine. You ¹⁵ _____ (not need) sports clothes. See you soon!

7 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions 1–6. Use the activities below or your own ideas.

Everyday activities do [my] homework go shopping go for a walk / a bike ride have a picnic listen to music play football / tennis / video games read a book visit friends / relatives watch a film / TV

- 1 What do you usually do after school?
- 2 What are you doing after school today?
- 3 What do you usually do at the weekend?
- 4 What are you doing this weekend?
- 5 What do you usually do during the school holidays?
- 6 What are you doing next school holiday?

What do you usually do after school?

I listen to music at home.