PERMANENT VS TEMPORARY SITUATIONS

A. Quick Grammar Reminder

1. Present Simple for permanent or long-term situations.

Ta dùng Present Simple khi nói về một tình huống tương đối ổn định, lâu dài, hoặc đúng trong một khoảng thời gian dài.

Examples:

- I live in Hanoi. → Đây là nơi ở chính thức / lâu dài của tôi.
- My father works for a technology company. → Đây là công việc ổn định của bố tôi.
- She studies at a bilingual school. → Đây là tình trạng học tập lâu dài.
- This shop sells imported books. → Đây là hoạt động kinh doanh thường xuyên của cửa hàng.

2. Present Continuous for temporary situations.

Ta dùng Present Continuous khi nói về một tình huống tạm thời, chỉ diễn ra trong một giai đoạn hiện tại, không nhất thiết là mãi mãi.

Examples:

- I am living with my aunt until my new flat is ready. → Tôi đang ở tạm với cô.
- My father is working from home this week. → Tuần này bố tôi làm việc ở nhà, không phải lúc nào cũng vậy.
- She is studying online for a few weeks. → Cô ấy đang học online tạm thời.
- The shop is selling everything at half price because it is closing down. → Đây là tình huống tạm thời.

B. Notice the Difference

Pair 1

I live in Hanoi. → Tôi sống ở Hà Nội lâu dài.

I'm living in Hanoi for six months. → Tôi đang sống ở Hà Nội trong 6 tháng, chỉ là tạm thời.

Pair 2

He works in the marketing department. → Công việc / vị trí lâu dài.

He's working in the marketing department this month. → Tháng này anh ấy đang làm ở đó tạm thời.

Pair 3

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She teaches English. → Cô ấy là giáo viên tiếng Anh / đây là nghề nghiệp.

She's teaching English at a summer camp. → Cô ấy đang dạy tiếng Anh ở trại hè trong một thời gian ngắn.

Pair 4

They stay at this hotel every summer. → Đây là thói quen lặp lại.

They're staying at this hotel until Friday. → Họ đang ở khách sạn này tạm thời đến thứ Sáu.

EXERCISE 1. MEANING RECOGNITION

Read the sentences. Decide whether each sentence describes a permanent / long-term situation or a temporary situation. Then underline the word or phrase that helps you decide.

Write: P = permanent / long-term T = temporary

1. My brother works for a software company that develops educational apps.
2. I'm staying with my aunt while my parents are travelling abroad.
3. The school offers a wide range of after-school activities.
4. She's taking a short course in academic writing before applying to university.
5. My father normally commutes by train, but he's driving to work this week because of the rail strike.
6. This café serves breakfast until 11 a.m. every day.
7. The café is serving a special breakfast menu during the festival.
8. He lives in a small flat near the city centre.
9. He's living in a small flat near the city centre until his house is renovated.
10. The company produces teaching materials for secondary schools.
11. The company is producing a new set of revision books for this year's exam season.
12. My sister studies economics at university.
13. My sister is studying in Singapore for one semester as part of an exchange programme.
14. Our teacher gives us regular feedback on our writing.
15. Our teacher is giving us extra feedback this week because the exam is coming soon.

EXERCISE 2. CHOOSE THE CORRECT FORM IN CONTEXT

1. I **live / am living** with my grandparents for the time being because my parents are working overseas.

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2. My uncle **runs / is running** a small language centre in Da Nang. He has been in education for more than twenty years.

3. My uncle **runs / is running** the centre on his own this month because his business partner is recovering from an operation.

4. The school usually **organises / is organising** its entrance exam preparation course in March.

5. The school **organises / is organising** a special revision programme this week for students who need extra support.

6. She normally **works / is working** in the sales department, but at the moment she helps / is helping the marketing team with a new campaign.

7. This website **provides / is providing** free grammar explanations and practice tests for B2 learners.

8. This month, the website **provides / is providing** free access to its premium lessons.

9. My cousin **studies / is studying** law in Hanoi, but this semester he attends / is attending several classes online because he is doing an internship.

10. We **use / are using** the library as a study room this week while our classroom is being repainted.

11. My mother **works / is working** as a school counsellor. She deals / is dealing with students' emotional and academic problems.

12. My mother **deals / is dealing** with a particularly difficult case this week, so she has to stay late at school.

13. Our neighbours **rent / are renting** the flat upstairs. They moved in about five years ago.

14. Our neighbours **rent / are renting** a house near the beach for two weeks during the summer holiday.

15. The charity normally **supports / is supporting** children from low-income families, but this month it raises / is raising money for flood victims.

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EXERCISE 3. Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

1. I normally _____ to school by bus, but this week I _____ with my father because the bus route has changed. (commute / travel)

2. My sister _____ at a bilingual school, but this term she _____ an online course to improve her academic writing. (study / take)

3. The company usually _____ training courses for teachers, but at the moment it _____ a new programme for parents. (provide / develop)

4. We _____ with my grandparents until our flat _____ fully repaired. (stay / be)

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5. He _____ for a publishing company, but this month he _____ on a temporary project with the design team. (work / work)

6. This restaurant normally _____ local dishes, but during the festival it _____ an international menu. (serve / offer)

7. My brother _____ in London, but he _____ in Manchester for a few weeks because of a work placement. (live / stay)

8. The school _____ students for international exams, and this month it _____ extra mock tests for B2 learners. (prepare / organise)

9. I _____ my cousin's laptop for the time being because mine _____ properly. (use / not work)

10. She usually _____ younger children, but this summer she _____ teenagers at a debate camp. (teach / teach)

11. The organisation _____ volunteers all year round, but at the moment it _____ more people for a weekend charity event. (recruit / look for)

12. My parents _____ in Hanoi, but they _____ in Hue this month while they supervise a new project. (live / work)

EXERCISE 4. PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY? COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE

1. She works in the finance department.

(temporary: this month)

→ She _____ in the finance department this month.

2. I live with my parents.

(temporary: until I find a flat)

→ I _____ with my parents until I find a flat.

3. The school offers weekend classes.

(temporary: during the exam season)

→ The school _____ weekend classes during the exam season.

4. He teaches English to primary students.

(temporary: at a summer camp)

→ He _____ English to primary students at a summer camp.

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5. They rent an apartment near the university.

(temporary: for one semester)

→ They _____ an apartment near the university for one semester.

6. We use this room for speaking lessons.

(temporary: while Room 204 is being repaired)

→ We _____ this room for speaking lessons while Room 204 is being repaired.

7. My father drives to work.

(temporary: because the trains are not running)

→ My father _____ to work because the trains are not running.

8. She studies French at university.

(temporary: online this term)

→ She _____ French online this term.

9. The company sells exam preparation books.

(temporary: at a lower price this week)

→ The company _____ exam preparation books at a lower price this week.

10. Our teacher gives us writing homework every Friday.

(temporary: extra homework before the test)

→ Our teacher _____ us extra writing homework before the test.

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EXERCISE 5. Explain the difference in meaning between each pair of sentences.

You may answer in Vietnamese or English.

1.

a. She works in Paris.

b. She's working in Paris this month.

2.

a. I live with my uncle.

b. I'm living with my uncle until my parents return from abroad.

3.

a. The school provides online lessons.

b. The school is providing online lessons while the classrooms are being repaired.

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4.

a. He teaches IELTS writing.

b. He's teaching IELTS writing during the summer course.

5.

a. They rent a flat near campus.

b. They're renting a flat near campus until they find somewhere cheaper.

6.

a. My father manages a sales team.

b. My father is managing a sales team while his colleague is on leave.

7.

a. The centre runs speaking clubs every weekend.

b. The centre is running a speaking club for new students this week.

8.

a. We use Google Classroom for homework.

b. We're using Google Classroom this week because the school website is not working.

EXERCISE 6. ERROR CORRECTION

(Write C if the sentence is already correct.)

1. I am living in Hanoi permanently.
2. She is staying with her cousin until her new apartment is ready.
3. My father works from home this week because his office is being renovated.
4. The school is offering extra revision classes every Saturday throughout the year.
5. I use my brother's tablet at the moment because mine is being repaired.
6. This company produces digital learning materials for secondary schools.
7. He is working as a waiter during the summer holiday, but he studies medicine at university.
8. They are renting the same house for ten years.
9. Our teacher gives us extra speaking practice this week because we have an oral test on Friday.
10. We are following a special timetable this month to prepare for the final exam.
11. My sister usually is studying in the library after school.
12. The charity supports children from poor families, but this month it raises money for flood victims.

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13. I'm living with my aunt while I look for accommodation closer to campus.

14. The shop is selling imported textbooks, but this week it offers a discount on exam preparation books.

15. He commutes to work by train, but he's driving this week because of the strike.

EXERCISE 7. COMPLETE THE MINI-DIALOGUES

Dialogue 1

A: Where _____ you _____ at the moment? (live)

B: I _____ with my cousin until I find a place closer to campus. (stay)

A: So where _____ you normally _____? (live)

B: I usually _____ with my parents, but their house is too far from the university. (live)

Dialogue 2

A: What _____ your sister _____? (do)

B: She _____ for an international charity. (work)

A: Really? What _____ she _____ on these days? (work)

B: She _____ a short-term project to support children in rural areas. (manage)

Dialogue 3

A: Why _____ the students _____ online lessons this week? (have)

B: Because the school _____ several classrooms. (repair)

A: Does the school usually offer online lessons?

B: Yes, it _____ online materials, but it usually _____ face-to-face classes. (provide / organise)

Dialogue 4

A: I thought your father worked in the finance department.

B: He does, but this month he _____ the marketing team with a new campaign. (help)

A: Is that part of his normal job?

B: No, he usually _____ financial reports. (prepare)

EXERCISE 8. TEXT GAP-FILL

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Hi Anna,

Sorry I haven't replied sooner. Things are quite busy at the moment. I normally _____ (have) a fairly predictable routine, but this month everything _____ (change) because our school _____ (prepare) for the final exams.

Usually, we _____ (have) English lessons three times a week, and our teacher _____ (focus) mainly on grammar and reading. However, this month she _____ (give) us extra speaking practice because many students _____ (take) an oral test soon. We also _____ (follow) a special revision timetable until the exam period is over.

At home, things are a bit different too. I usually _____ (live) with my parents, but I _____ (stay) with my grandparents for a few weeks because my parents _____ (work) on a project in another city. Their house is further from school, so I _____ (take) the bus every morning instead of cycling.

My brother _____ (study) computer science at university. At the moment, he _____ (do) an internship with a small technology company, so he _____ (not have) much free time. He usually _____ (help) me with maths, but these days he _____ (come) home too late.

Anyway, how are things with you? _____ you _____ (still / attend) your evening English course, or _____ you _____ (take) a break this month?

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Write back soon,

Linh

EXERCISE 9. The paragraph below contains 10 mistakes with the Present Simple and Present Continuous. Find and correct them.

I am usually studying at home in the evening, but this month I study at the library because my younger brother is preparing for a music competition and the house is very noisy. My school is offering extra revision classes every year, and at the moment it offers a special B2 grammar course for students who need more practice. I live with my parents for the time being because my own flat is renovated. My father is normally working in the city centre, but this week he works from home while his office is being painted. My mother runs a small online business, but these days she is taking care of my grandmother, so she doesn't has much time for work.

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EXERCISE 10. Write a paragraph of 100-120 words about your life at the moment.

You must include:

1. One permanent situation about where you live, study, or work.
2. One temporary situation happening this week or this month.
3. One regular routine.
4. One temporary change in your routine.
5. One sentence about school, work, or exam preparation.
6. One sentence using normally / usually.
7. One sentence using at the moment / currently / for the time being.
8. At least three Present Simple forms and three Present Continuous forms.

Suggested opening:

Normally, my routine is quite stable, but this month several things are different.

EXERCISE 11. SPEAKING PRACTICE

Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.

Try to use both the Present Simple and the Present Continuous.

1. Where do you normally live? Are you living anywhere different at the moment?
2. What is your usual school or work routine? Is anything changing this week?
3. What subjects or skills do you usually focus on? What are you focusing on at the moment?
4. How do you normally travel to school or work? Are you travelling differently these days?
5. Does anyone in your family have a temporary change in their routine at the moment?
6. Are you preparing for any exams, competitions, or projects this month?
7. What does your school or workplace usually provide? Is it offering anything special at the moment?
8. Are you taking any extra classes or doing any short-term activities these days?

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