

REVIEW VERB TENSES (PRESENT)

1) Choose the most suitable verb form in each sentence.

1. What sort of work do you do / are you doing?
2. I can't talk now. I cook / am cooking the dinner.
3. What shall we have? Do you like / are you liking fish?
4. Can I borrow this laptop? Or do you use / are you using it?
5. What do the people here do / are the people here doing in the evenings?
6. Follow that bus. Then turn / are turning left.
7. Excuse me, do you read / are you reading your newspaper? Could I borrow it?

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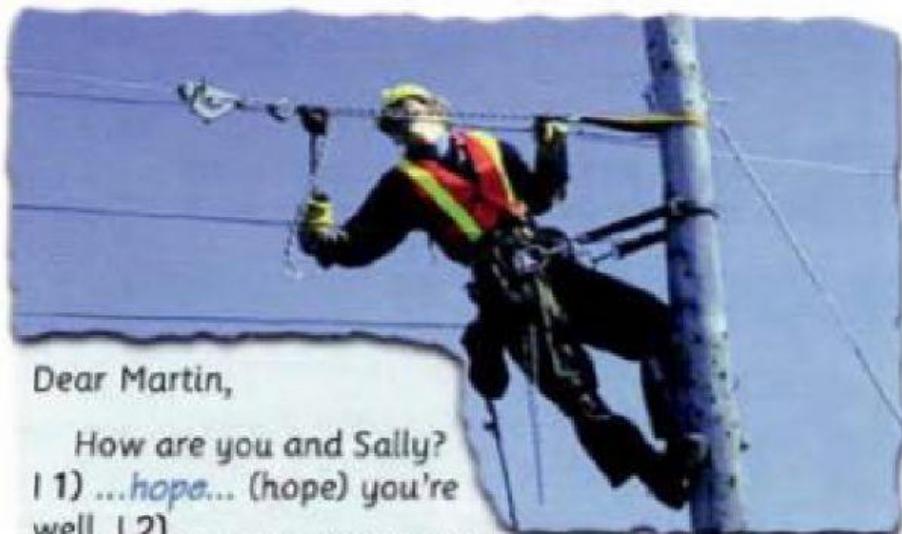
2) Put each verb in brackets into either the present simple or the present continuous.

1. What _____ (you look) at? _____ (I wear) the wrong clothes?
2. I _____ (look after) Jack's dog this weekend.
_____ (you want) to take it for a walk?
3. Who _____ (drive) the Mercedes that's parked outside?

4. Harry always _____ (look) untidy! And today he _____ (wear) dirty jeans.

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3) Choose the correct option.



Dear Martin,

How are you and Sally?

I 1) ...hope... (hope) you're well. I 2)

..... (write) to give you some good news. I have got a summer job for the holidays! I 3)
..... (repair) telephone lines for a telephone company.

I 4) (usually/ride) my bicycle to work because it's only a ten minute ride from home. We 5) (start) work at 8:30. We 6) (finish) at 4:30 on Mondays to Thursdays, but at 2:30 on Fridays, so I 7) (have) long weekends.

I 8) (work) very hard at the moment. To tell you the truth, I 9) (be) a bit nervous because my boss 10) (leave) for Scotland on business next week, so I'll be on my own. Lizzie says I 11) (worry) about it too much. She's probably right!

Please write with your news. Say hello to Sally for me.

Best wishes,
Richard

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Key points

- 1 The present simple describes facts and habitual actions. The present continuous describes actions which are still in progress at the time of speaking.
- 2 Many verbs which describe states rather than momentary events can only be used in the simple form. Many verbs describing mental activities (*understand, know*) are of this kind.
- 3 Some verbs have both state and event meanings, but the meanings are not the same.
- 4 When describing a photograph, we usually describe the scene as if it is happening now, and use the present continuous.
- 5 Present tense forms are also used to refer to future time. See Grammar 3.
- 6 Where some languages use present tenses, English uses the present perfect. See Grammar 2.

I've lived in Milan all my life.