

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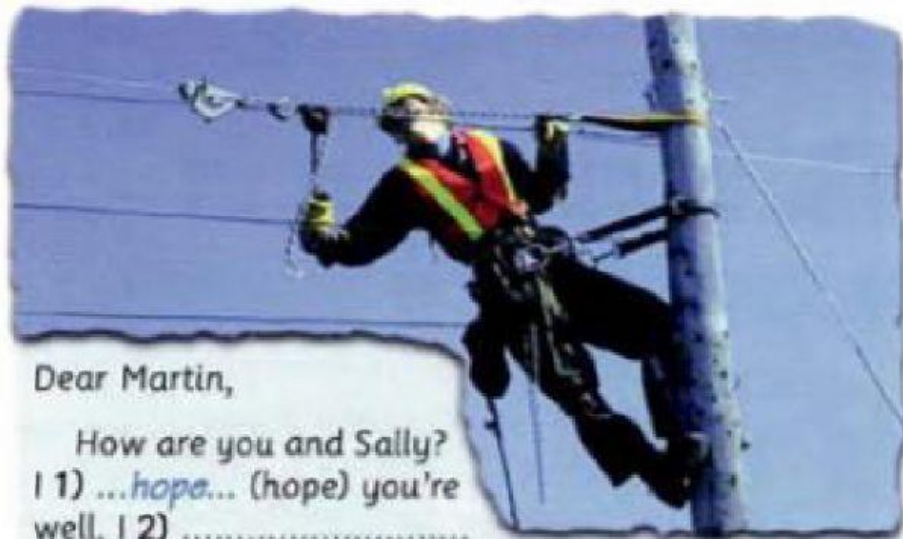
2) Put each verb in brackets into either the present simple or the present continuous.

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' 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.*