

Present continuous and present simple

Explanations

Present continuous

To talk about things happening at the moment, use the present continuous.

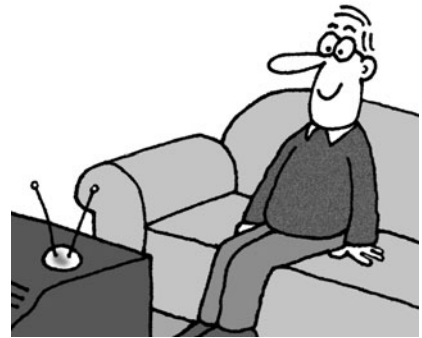
*Jim is **watching** television at the moment.*

Present simple

To talk about habits and routines use the present simple.

- Things we do often, every day, every week, etc.
- Things that always happen.

*I **arrive** at school at 8.30.
The first lesson **starts** at 8.45.
The lesson **finishes** at 9.30.*



Jim is watching TV.

Careful!

*Joe **lives** in New York. New York is his home. He lives there all the time.
We **are living** near the station at the moment. We want to move to another house soon.*

Verbs usually used with the present simple:

cost	<i>This bike costs £200.</i>
like	<i>Anna likes rap music.</i>
know	<i>Do you know the answer?</i>
understand	<i>I don't understand this.</i>
believe	<i>Do you believe me?</i>

Some verbs have one meaning in the simple form, but a different meaning in the continuous form.

<i>Do you have a bike?</i> = Do you own a bike?	(in general)
<i>I'm having a great time!</i> = It's a great party!	(at the moment)
<i>I think this film is great!</i> = I like this film a lot.	(in general)
<i>Quiet! I'm thinking.</i> = I'm doing a difficult exercise.	(at the moment)

Practice

1 Choose the most suitable sentence or question.

- a) 1 I wash my hair.
2 I'm washing my hair. ✓
- b) 1 Do you know the answer?
2 Are you knowing the answer?
- c) 1 Do you wait for the school bus? You're in the wrong place!
2 Are you waiting for the school bus? You're in the wrong place!
- d) 1 That bike costs £350.
2 That bike is costing £350.
- e) 1 Do you understand?
2 Are you understanding?
- f) 1 I do my homework.
2 I'm doing my homework.

2 Complete each sentence. Use the words in brackets. Use present simple or present continuous.

- a) Richard (always, get up) *always gets up* before 7.00.
- b) Hurry up! The bus (wait) for us!
- c) Where (we, go) ? This is the wrong road!
- d) My friends (not believe) my story.
- e) Please be quiet! I (read) a very interesting book.
- f) (like, Susan) horror films?

3 Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each space.

- a) 'Someone *B* for you outside.' 'Who is it?'
A) waits B) is waiting C) waiting
- b) 'What of this book?' 'I think it's fantastic!'
A) do you think B) is you think C) you do think
- c) in ghosts?
A) Are you believe B) Are you believing C) Do you believe
- d) Kate is busy. She for a test.
A) is study B) is studying C) is studies
- e) a great time at the moment!
A) We are have B) We're have C) We're having
- f) Tina usually at 7.00.
A) get up B) is getting up C) gets up

Consolidation 1

1 Correct each sentence or question.

- a) I doesn't likes this film. *don't like*
- b) What do you wants?
- c) Jim walk sometimes to school.
- d) When the lesson begins?
- e) I don't gets up early on Saturdays.
- f) Tina not like computer games.
- g) Figen watchs television every night.

2 Put one word in each space. Contractions are one word.

- a) What *do* you usually eat for lunch?
- b) George and Terry speak Portuguese. They speak English.
- c) It's 9.30 and the children sitting at their desks.
- d) Ken like tea. In fact, he hates it.
- e) When it rains, you take an umbrella?
- f) What it say on the board? I can't see from here.

3 Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each space.

- a) What time *C* to bed?
A) usually do you go B) do usually you go C) do you usually go
- b) Every day, Frank to work.
A) goes B) is going C) go
- c) Stop it! it!
A) I'm not liking B) I don't like C) I not like
- d) What ? Is it an orange?
A) you are eating B) are you eating C) do you eat
- e) Yumiko feels ill, so she basketball.
A) doesn't play B) isn't play C) isn't playing
- f) Pay attention, Philip! ?
A) Do you listen B) Is it listening C) Are you listening
- g) Excuse me. to Manchester?
A) This road goes B) Does this road go C) Is this road go

4 Change each sentence. Use the words in brackets.

- a) Jo goes to school by bus. (usually) *Jo usually goes to school by bus.*
- b) I'm working hard. (not)
- c) Sara likes sport. (not)
- d) I get up at 6.30. (always)
- e) We speak German. (not)
- f) Pierre goes to the beach. (often)
- g) George drinks beer. (never)
- h) We're having a good time. (not)

5 Present simple or present continuous? Change the verb if it is wrong.

- a) Are you having a motorbike?
..... *Do you have a motorbike?*
- b) I'm staying in a hotel near the sea.
.....
- c) I'd like to buy this coat. How much is it costing?
.....
- d) What you doing?
.....
- e) I'm usually getting up at 6.00.
.....
- f) This book is difficult. I'm not understanding it.
.....
- g) I watch a lot of TV every night.
.....
- h) Excuse me. Are you knowing the way to the museum?
.....

Think about grammar! Are the sentences true or false?

- a) When you talk about a habit or a routine, you use the present simple.
- b) The present continuous is for actions that do not finish.
- c) When the subject of the sentence is *he, she* or *it*, add *-s* or *-es*.