# Unit 5. Present Tenses: Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect, Present Perfect Continuous

***Grammar Reference***

**We use the Present Simple:**

* for permanent states and repeated or habitual actions.

*Jean* ***works*** *for**an IT company. (permanent state)*

*She always* ***takes*** *the bus to university. (habitual action)*

* for general truths and laws of nature.

*Water* ***freezes*** *at 0 °C.*

* for timetables (of planes, trains, etc.) and programmes.

*The last train to London* ***leaves*** *at 9:15pm.*

* for sports commentaries, reviews and narration.

*In the end, Gail* ***finds*** *her mother and they all* ***live*** *happily ever after. (narration)*

* We use with the present simple the following time expressions:

***usually, often, always, every day/week/month/ year, etc., in the morning/ afternoon/ evening, at night/ the weekend, on Mondays, etc.***

**We use the Present Continuous:**

* for actions happening at or around the moment of speaking.

*Kim and Jo* ***are looking for*** *a fiat these days.*

* for fixed arrangements in the near future, especially when the time and place have been decided. ***We’re going*** *to the classes next Saturday.*
* for situations which are changing or developing during the present time.

*The hole in the ozone layer* ***is becoming*** *bigger and bigger.*

* with adverbs such as **always, constantly,** **continuously,** etc. for frequently repeated actions, to express annoyance, irritation or anger.

*You’re* ***always leaving*** *your newspaper on the floor.*

* We use with the present continuous the following time expressions:

***now, at the moment, at present, these days, still, nowadays, today, tonight, etc.***

**Note:** - always + present simple - “every time"

*I* ***always have*** *a shower in the morning.*

* always + present continuous - “all the time” - “too/very often”

*You’re* ***always playing*** *your music too loud.*

**Stative,** or **state verbs** as they are often called, describe a state rather than an action and do not normally have continuous tenses. These include:

* verbs which express likes or dislikes: **like, love, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer, can’t stand, (don’t) mind** etc.
* verbs of the senses: **see, hear, smell, taste, feel, look, sound,** etc
* verbs of perception **know, believe, understand, realise, remember, forget, notice, think, see (= understand),** etc.
* some other verbs such as: **be, contain, include, belong, fit, need, matter, cost, mean, own, want, owe, have (= possess), weigh, wish, keep (= continue),** etc.

Some of the verbs above are used in continuous tenses when they describe actions and not states. Some of these verbs can be used in continuous tenses, but with a difference in meaning.

***Present Simple***  ***Present Continuous***

THINK

I think he’s a very good doctor. We are thinking about moving a house.

(= believe) (= are considering)

HAVE

She has a large collection of plates I am having the time of my life.

(= own, possess) (= am experiencing)

SEE

I can see France from up here. I’m seeing the doctor next week.

(it is visible) (am meeting)

TASTE

The ice cream tastes like heaven. Jane is tasting the milk to see if it is hot.

(=it is, has, the flavour of) (=is testing)

SMELL

The cooking smells wonderful. She is smelling the flowers.

(= has the aroma) (=is sniffing)

APPEAR

She appears to be new to the job. He is appearing in the school play.

(=seems to be) (= is performing)

FIT

His shirt fits him perfectly. Tina is fitting new batteries in her clock.

(=it is the right size) (=is attaching)

**We use the Present Perfect:**

* for *an* action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with stative verbs such as **be, have, like, know,** etc.

*Kate* ***has known*** *John since 1969*.

* for a recently completed action whose result is visible in the present.

*He* ***has*** *just* ***finished*** *writing his diploma.*

*-* for an action which happened at an unstated time in the past. We put emphasis on the action and do not mention the exact time because it is either unimportant or unknown.

Hob *and Lucy* ***have booked*** *tickets to Paris.*

**Time expressions we use with the present perfect:**

***for, since, already, yet, always, just, ever, never, so far, today, this week/month, etc., how long, lately, recently, still (in negations), etc.***

**We use the Present Perfect Continuous:**

* to put emphasis on the duration of an action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with words and expressions such as **for, since, all morning/day/year,** etc. *Sean* ***has been writing*** *the**laboratory work* ***all morning.***
* for an action which started in the past and lasted for some time. The action may have finished or may still be going on. The result of the action is visible in the present. *Mrs Lyon is upset. Her students* ***have been misbehaving*** *since lunchtime.*
* to express anger, irritation or annoyance. *Someone* ***has been throwing*** *their rubbish into my garden.*

**Note:** With the verbs **live, work, teach** and **feel** (= have a particular emotion) we can use the present perfect or present perfect continuous with no difference in meaning. *She* ***has taught\has been teaching*** *Physics for more than fifteen years.*

**Time expressions we use with the present perfect continuous:**

***for, since, how long, lately, recently***

**Note: *already*** is used in statements and questions in mid or end position

*Have you* ***already*** *finished? Have you finished* ***already?***

* contracted auxiliary verb or at the end of the sentence.

*She hasn’t* ***yet*** *called me. She hasn’t called me* ***yet***

* **still** is used in statements and questions after the auxiliary verb or before the main verb. It comes before the auxiliary verb in negations. / *am* ***still*** *reading the newspaper. He* ***still*** *works for the same company. She* ***still*** *hasn’t signed the contract.*

**Have gone to - Have been lo - Have been in**

* The verb **go** has got two present perfect forms: **have gone** and **have been.**

Study the examples to see the difference in meaning.

*“Where’s Alice?" “She’s* ***gone to*** *Oxford.”*

*(She is still in Oxford; she hasn’t come back yet.)*

* ***Been*** is only used when we refer to a completed visit.

/ ***have been to*** *Oxford three times this year.*

*(I have visited Oxford but now I am not there. I have returned home.)*

***Have*** *you ever* ***been*** *to Brazil? She* ***hasn’t been*** *to the theatre forages.*

* **have/has been in = have/has lived in**

*They* ***have been in*** *Sweden since 1987. = They* ***have lived in*** *Sweden since 1987.*

**I.** **Underline the correct tense.**

1. The plane***leaves****\has* left at 4 o’clock. We must be at the airport by 2 o’clock.
2. It **gets/is getting** colder and colder every day.
3. Have you seen Linda? I **have been looking/am looking** for her for almost an hour.
4. Sam is a very interesting person. He **knows/has known** everything about programming languages.
5. First, you **are heating/heat** the oven to a temperature of 180°C.
6. Have you heard the news? They **have just signed/ have been signing** a new contract!
7. Martha **is finding/has found** a new job. She is starting next week.
8. The teacher **has been correcting/has corrected** essays for three hours.
9. Michael’s computer broke down last week, so he **uses\is using** his father’s for the time being.
10. It rarely **gets/is getting** very hot in Britain.
11. I **have written\write** two module papers this morning.
12. They **go\ are going** on holiday on Saturday.
13. Graham **has known\knows** Errol for five years.
14. You **are always leaving\always leave** the door open.
15. We **solve\are solving** a difficult task at the moment.
16. George **has bought\has been buying** a new notebook.
17. Lisa **has been solving\has solved** the algorithm all morning.
18. Apple **has developed\is developing** new version of iPod.
19. Samantha **has received\receives** a satisfactory grade for her essay.
20. John has **repaired\has been repairing** a printer since 9 a.m.
21. My brother **has been to\has gone** **to** the conference in Kenya twice.

**II. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present form.**

*e.g. Ann* ***\_\_knows\_\_* *(know)*** C # very well*.*

* – Are you still busy? – Yes. I 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (read) this article for an hour and still 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/finish).
* – More and more people 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to university these days. – Yes. I think it’s a good thing.
* – We 4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a student conference tonight. Do you want to come? – Yes. What time does it start?
* – Why are you so upset? – I 5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (fail) the DB exam.
* – Then there is a problem of interference if a neighbour 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (use) the same channel.
* – What do I need to do next? – You 7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (add) this substance to the mixture and you 8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mix) it well.
* – Who 9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (use) my USB drive ? – I have.
* – Are you new here? –No. Actually, I 10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live) here for almost ten years.
* – Pete is playing computer games. –Again! He11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (always/do) that!
* – Have you made plans for Saturday yet? – I 12) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the laboratory with Jack.
* Mr. Collins is a very good teacher. He 13) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (teach) Maths for twenty-five years.
* – Are you going to the concert on Saturday night? – Yes. Actually, I 14) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (already/buy) the tickets.
* – Hello, Simon. – Oh! We 15) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (always/meet) each other in this campus.
* ”I 16) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (write) to tell you my news. My university 17) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (choose) me to spend six weeks at university in the USA. I 18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for this opportunity for ages, so I’m very excited. I 19) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (finish) reading two books about the USA and 20) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (borrow) another one from the university library.”

**III. Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous.**

* I ***\_\_am seeing\_\_ (see)***a scientific supervisor about materials I 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (need).
* IT staff at that company 2) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (be) on strike since Tuesday.
* They won’t employ him as he3)*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (not\have) any experience.
* “What 4) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (you\do)?” “I 5) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (think) about my job plans.”
* “Why is the room stuffy?” “Because too many people 6) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (smoke) in here.”
* In spite of our doubts, he 7) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (seem) to have been right.
* She 8) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (study) physics for six months.
* Hot air balloons 9) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (work) on the principle that heat rises.
* I 10) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (have\never) Paris, although I’ve always wanted to.
* Mr. Smith 11) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (go) Moscow. He’ll be back next Friday at the latest.
* I 12) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (be) London for three years now.
* Since you 13) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (be) India, can you tell me what I ought to see there?
* They 14) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (go) to university, but they should be back soon.
* John Simmons 15) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (be) a superior programmer who 16) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (work) for a London-based IT firm. Although he normally 17) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (work) in the London area, at present he 18) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (supervise) a project in Latin America.
* This is the famous site of Stonehenge, which 19) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (be) the subject of archaeological debate for many years. No one 20) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (yet\explain) satisfactorily why or how it was built.

**IV. Use one of the following verbs to complete these sentences. Sometimes you need the negative:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***develop*** | ***read*** | ***flow*** | ***~~go~~*** | ***grow*** | ***need*** |
| ***have*** | ***deliver*** | ***translate*** | ***cause*** | ***close*** | ***know*** |
| ***connect (2)*** | ***open*** | ***help*** | ***take place*** | ***operate*** | ***link (2)*** |
|  | ***give*** | ***get*** |  |  |  |

1. The earth ***\_\_goes\_\_*** round the sun.
2. John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a scientific journal.
3. The sun \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the east.
4. You only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one network printer.
5. It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ home entertainment audio to speakers.
6. Apple \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ iPod.
7. An interpreter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from one language into another.
8. Her house\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a network.
9. The River Amazon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the Atlantic Ocean.
10. Ann \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C # very well.
11. They\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their site to other sport site.
12. Only parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_access to this site.
13. The swimming pool \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at 9 o’clock \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at 18.30 every day.
14. Bad driving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ many accidents.
15. A modem \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_access to the Internet .
16. The Olympic Games \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ every four years.
17. A fixed LAN which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ computers with cables.
18. The AP \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like a router in a fixed LAN.
19. You can\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the WLAN to the Internet via an ADSL or cable modem.”
20. Encryption programs like WEP can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
21. A data line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fixed LAN clients to a wireless access point.