# **Tenses referring to present time**

## **Present Simple → ILLIMITED DURATION**

### *What do you do?*

### *I’m a teacher*

### *I read a lot of novels*

### *Unemployment goes up every January*

## **Present Progressive → LIMITED DURATION**

### *A- What are you doing? B-I’m trying to open this door*

### *I’m reading “The Moonstone”*

### *Unemployment is going up*

# **Tenses referring to present time: Present Simple**

## To talk about permanent situations or about general facts:

### *They live in a very nice flat.*

### *Water boils at 100 º Celsius.*

## To talk about things that happen regularly, repeatedly or all the time:

### *It always rains at the weekend.*

### *Jeremy is a photographer. He takes photos for a newspaper.*

## Commentaries:

### *De Gea almost touches the ball ...*

## To refer to future events which are timetabled:

### *His train arrives at 11.45.*

### *I start my new job tomorrow.*

## In subordinate clauses that refer to the future:

### *I'll phone you when I get home.*

### *We'll go to play tennis if it doesn't rain.*

## In suggestions with: Why don't you...? and certain expressions like:

### *How do you do?*

### *Why don't you take a day off tomorrow?*

## With state verbs:

### *I think you're right.*

### *She likes her job.*

### *He wants a new bike.*

### *I know Jane quite well.*

# **State use of verbs**

## *I think she’s right*

## *I’m thinking about the problem*

## *He’s French*

## *He’s being silly*

## *She has a new car*

## *She’s having lunch*

# **Present Progressive → LIMITED DURATION**

## To talk about actions happening now:

### *I’m speaking*

## To talk about actions happening about now with limited duration:

### *I’m reading “War and Peace”*

## To talk about changes in progress:

### *Unemployment is going up*

### *The climate is getting warmer*

## For repeated actions with always and similar words: constantly, forever to mean very often or too often:

### *I'm always losing my keys.*

## To talk about a pre-planned future:

### *We’re having a party on Friday*

**1. Fill in the correct form of the verb.**

1. Where **do you usually** (you usually get) the bus?
2. You **don’t believe** (not believe) me! You **think** (think) I **am lying** (lie).
3. The sun **is getting** (get) colder and colder.
4. Speak more slowly! I **don’t understand** (not understand) what you **are saying** (say).
5. What **is happening** (happen)?

I **do not know** (not know), I've only just arrived.

1. Don't disturb her, she **is thinking** (think) about the problem.
2. The price of flats **is going up** (go up).
3. I'll phone you when I **get** (get) home.
4. -What **are you doing** (you do)?

-I **am looking for** (look for) that book I lent you.

10. This week I **am going** (go) to work by bus, because I've lent my bicycle to a friend.

11. I **know** (know) he **is not telling** (not tell) the truth about the incident.

12. I **am readding** (read) *De Rerum Natura* again.

13. Why **don’t we organize** (we not organize) a protest against the Government.

14, As soon as I **get** (get) home, I'll have a drink.

1. Where **do you usually get[[1]](#footnote-1)** the bus?
2. You **don’t believe** me! You **think** I**’m lying[[2]](#footnote-2)**.
3. The sun **is getting[[3]](#footnote-3)** colder and colder.
4. Speak more slowly! I **don’t understand** what you **are saying[[4]](#footnote-4)**.
5. What **is happening**?

I **don’t know[[5]](#footnote-5)**, I've only just arrived.

1. Don't disturb her, she **is thinking[[6]](#footnote-6)** about the problem.
2. The price of flats **is going up[[7]](#footnote-7)**.
3. I'll phone you when I **get[[8]](#footnote-8)** home.
4. -What **are you doing**?

–I’**m looking for[[9]](#footnote-9)** that book I lent you.

1. This week I **am going[[10]](#footnote-10)** to work by bus, because I've lent my bicycle to a friend.
2. I **know** he **isn’t telling[[11]](#footnote-11)** the truth about the incident.
3. **I’m reading[[12]](#footnote-12)** *De Rerum Natura* again.
4. Why **don’t we organize[[13]](#footnote-13)**  a protest against the Government.
5. As soon as I **get[[14]](#footnote-14)** home, I'll have a drink.

1. Illimited duration; frequency adverbs are normally placed immediately before the main verb, but after *be* even if it is a main verb:

   *I* ***often*** *go to the cinema I don’t* ***often*** *go to the cinema Do you* ***often*** *go to the cinema?*

   *He is* ***often*** *drunk.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Believe* and *think* are state verbs here, so we can’t use the progressive; *lie* is a dynamic verb, there is limited duration ∴ we use the progressive form. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A (long-term) change currently in progress 🡪 present progressive. Notice We can use repetition of a comparative form with the word and to indicate progressive change:

   *Pollution is increasing 🡪 There is more and more pollution* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. State verb then a dynamic verb. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Dynamic verb then a state verb (*What’s happening* 🡪 limited duration, cf. *What happens exactly when we turn on a light?* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. A dynamic use of *think*= *reflect upon*. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. A (long-term) change currently in progress. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Present simple in a subordinate clause with future reference. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Limited duration (right now). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Limited duration (this week). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. State verb, then a dynamic verb with limited duration. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Limited duration, something happening around now. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Set expression: *Why don’t you ..? Why don’t we ..?* 🡪 suggestions. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Present simple in a subordinate clause with future reference. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)