

- 1.1 Complete the sentences with the verbs given, using negatives or questions where necessary. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair. Choose the present continuous if possible; if not, use the present simple. Use / to add any words outside the space and use contracted forms where appropriate, as in 1. (A & B)

attract consist of doubt feel fit have like ~~look~~ measure sound

- 1 a I hear you're having your house repainted. How ^s it looking? (or How ^{does} it look?)
 b I bought this new dress today. How ^{does} it look?
 2 a A: What are you doing with that ruler? B: I the area of the kitchen.
 b The garden 12 by 20 metres.
 3 a I whether I'll get another chance to retake the exam.
 b I suppose she might be at home tonight, but I it.
 4 a The new science museum currently 10,000 visitors a month.
 b Flowers bees with their brightly coloured petals.
 5 a Mike won't work at the top of the 20-storey building because he heights.
 b A: How's the new job? B: Well, at the moment, I it at all.
 6 a My car's in the garage today. They new brakes.
 b I bought this jumper for Sue, but it her so I'll have to take it back.
 7 a What's your shirt made from? It like silk.
 b I won't be coming to work today. I very well.
 8 a The roof of the house only plastic sheets nailed down in a few places.
 b Their school uniform black trousers and a dark green jumper.
 9 a Simon has been practising the song for days. It quite good, but he doesn't think he's ready yet to perform it in public.
 b A: What's that noise? B: It like a bird stuck in the chimney.
 10 a I had a postcard from Joanne on holiday in Spain. It sounds like she a really good time.
 b My sister long blonde hair. You're bound to recognise her.

- 1.2 Cross out any improbable answers. (C & D)

- 1 *I'm understanding/ I understand* biology a lot better now that we've got a new teacher.
 2 I went to see a Formula One race last week, but *I admit/ I'm admitting* that I don't know much about cars.
 3 *Do you find/ Are you finding* it difficult to concentrate on your work with this music on?
 4 We'll do our best to get the computer repaired by next week, but *we're not guaranteeing/ we don't guarantee* it.
 5 I've just started to learn how to drive. Now *I'm knowing/ I know* how difficult it is, I'll never criticise your driving again.
 6 She says that she wasn't in the kitchen when the bottle smashed, but *I refuse/ I'm refusing* to believe her.
 7 *I'm certainly agreeing/ I certainly agree* with you that people shouldn't drink and drive.
 8 I know the company has made a loss this year, but *I'm not apologising/ I don't apologise* for that.
 9 It's very difficult for us to get jobs here, so *we're considering/ we consider* emigrating to Canada.

Present continuous and present simple (2)

A We often use the present simple and present continuous in stories and jokes in informal spoken English to create the impression that events are happening now. This can make them more direct and exciting and hold people's attention:

- ☐ She goes up to this man and looks straight into his eyes. He's not wearing his glasses, and he doesn't recognise her...
- ☐ This man's playing golf when a kangaroo bounds up to him, grabs his club and hits his ball about half a mile...

The main events are usually described in sequence using the present simple and longer background events are described using the present continuous.

In narratives and anecdotes the present simple can be used to highlight an event. Often it is used after past tenses and with a phrase such as **suddenly** or **all of a sudden**:

- ☐ I was sitting in the park, reading a newspaper, when *all of a sudden* this dog jumps at me.

B We also use the present simple and present continuous in live commentaries (for example, on sports events) when the report takes place at the same time as the action:

- ☐ King serves to the left-hand court and Adams makes a wonderful return. She's playing magnificent tennis in this match....

C We can use the present simple in phrases such as **It says here**, **I hear**, **I gather**, **I see**, **I understand** and **They say**, **(Someone) says**, **(Someone) tells me** to introduce news that we have heard, read, seen (e.g. on television), or been told. We can also use past tenses (e.g. **It said here**, **I heard**):

- ☐ I gather you're worried about Ken.
- ☐ Jane tells me you're thinking of emigrating.
- ☐ Professor Otto is at the conference and I hear she's an excellent speaker.

D The present simple is often used in newspaper headlines to talk about events that have recently happened:

QUAKE HITS CENTRAL IRAN

FOREIGN MINISTER RESIGNS

SCIENTISTS FIND BRIGHTEST STAR

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN HOTEL ROOM

We can use the present simple to refer to the contents of books, films, newspapers, etc:

- ☐ Thompson gives a list of the largest European companies in Chapter Six.
- ☐ At the beginning of the book, three men find \$4 million in a crashed plane.
- ☐ In the film, Joan Smithson takes the role of a private detective.

E We can use the present continuous with adverbs such as **always**, **constantly**, **continually** or **forever** to emphasise that something is done so often that it is characteristic of a person, group or thing:

- ☐ A: I think I'll stay here after all. B: You are constantly changing your mind.
- ☐ Tony is a really kind person. He's always offering to help me with my work.

We often use this pattern to indicate disapproval. The past continuous is used in a similar way with these adverbs (e.g. **Was Kath always asking you for money, too?**).

We can use the present continuous to describe something we regularly do at a certain time:

- ☐ At 8 o'clock I'm usually driving to work, so phone me on my mobile.
- ☐ 7 o'clock is a bit early. We're generally eating then.

F We can use the present (or past) continuous rather than the present (or past) simple with the verb **wonder** if we want to be especially friendly or polite, particularly if we are unsure about the other person's feelings towards something or how they will react to what we say:

- ☐ You said that there were only 50 books in the boxes. I'm just wondering/ I was just wondering whether you counted them all? (*more polite than 'I just wonder...?'*)

Grammar review: present continuous → A1-A2; present simple → A3-A5

- 2.1 Complete these sentences using the verbs in brackets. Choose the present simple or present continuous. (A & B)

- 1 Beckham passes to Giggs who _____ just over the bar. Manchester United _____ much more in this half... (*pass - shoot - attack*)
- 2 A man _____ home late one night after the office Christmas party. His wife _____ for him, and she _____ to him... (*arrive - wait - say*)
- 3 I went to a concert yesterday in the Town Hall. In the middle of it, while the orchestra _____ this man suddenly _____ on his seat and _____ to conduct them. (*play - stand - start*)

- 2.2 Complete what each person says about the news they have read or heard using the present tense phrases in C. (C)

1 **Government gives health service billions**


I see the government's giving the health service a lot more money.

2 **Vegecorp to sack 1000 workers.**

_____ Vegecorp are going to _____

3 In a surprise move yesterday President Cartman announced a new public holiday on his birthday, August 6th. He made the announcement...


_____ we're going to have _____

4  Did you hear that Tony's crashed his car again?

_____ Tony's _____

5  I've got a new job.

_____ she's _____

6  Scientists from Newtown University claim to have produced a vaccination to prevent malaria.

_____ they've found _____

- 2.3 Expand one of the sets of notes below to complete each dialogue. (E)

continually/change/mind forever/moan/work forever/ask me/money
constantly/criticise/driving ~~always/complain/handwriting~~

- 1 A: I can't read this. B: You're always complaining about my handwriting.
- 2 A: Can I borrow £10? B: You're _____
- 3 A: That was a dangerous thing to do. B: You're _____
- 4 A: I think I'll stay here after all. B: You're _____
- 5 A: I had a bad day at the office again. B: You're _____

- 2.4 Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs, using negatives or questions where necessary. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair with either the present continuous or the present simple. Use / to add any words outside the spaces. (D-F)

- 1 a I _____ whether you could help me. You see, my car's broken down outside your house and I need to phone a garage.
b 'Do you think Philip would be good at the job?' 'Hmm, I _____.'
- 2 a 'Shall I phone at 6.00?' 'No, we usually _____ dinner at that time.'
b I _____ lamb, thanks. I'm a vegetarian.
- 3 a Gielman _____ Henry V in the latest production at the Royal Theatre.
b They constantly _____ loud music until the early hours of the morning.
- 4 a I normally _____ the children to school at half eight. Perhaps we could meet at nine.
b In his 1954 book, Wall _____ a controversial view of Britain's role in the war in Europe.

Past simple and present perfect

- A** Time expressions that refer to the present, such as **this morning/week/month** and **today**, can be used with either past simple or present perfect verbs. If we think of **this morning** (etc.) as a past, completed time period, then we use the past simple; if we think of **this morning** (etc.) as a time period which includes the present moment, then we use the present perfect. Compare:

- ☐ I **didn't shave** *this morning*. (= the morning is over and I didn't shave) *and*
- ☐ I **haven't shaved** *this morning*. (= it is still the morning and I might shave later)

- B** In news reports, you will often read about or hear recent events introduced with the present perfect, and then the past simple or other past tenses are used to give details:

☐ 'The film star Jim Cooper **has died** of cancer. He **was** 68 and **lived** in Texas...'

TV NEWS

☐ 'A teacher from Oslo **has become** the first woman to cross the Antarctic alone. It **took** her 42 days to make the crossing with her dog team...'

☐ 'The US space shuttle Atlantis **has returned** safely to earth. It **landed** in Florida **this morning**...'



- C** In a sentence which includes a time clause with *since*, we generally prefer a past simple verb in the time clause and a present perfect verb in the main clause. The time clause refers to a particular point in the past:

- ☐ *Since* Mr Hassan **became** president, both taxes and unemployment **have increased**. (*rather than ...has become...*)
- ☐ She **hasn't been able** to play tennis *since* she **broke** her arm. (*rather than ...has broken...*)

Notice, however, that we use the present perfect in the time clause if the two situations described in the main clause and time clause extend until the present:

- ☐ **Have you met** any of your neighbours *since* you've **lived** here? (*not ...you lived...*)

- D** After the pattern *It/This/That is/will be the first time...* we generally use the present perfect in the next clause:

- ☐ *That's the first time* I've **seen** Jan look embarrassed. (reporting a past event)
- ☐ *It won't be the first time* she **has** voted against the government in her long career. (talking about a future event)

Notice, however, that after *It/This/That was the first time...* we generally use the *past* perfect (see Unit 5):

- ☐ *It was the first time* I'd **talked** to Ella outside the office.

- E** With time clauses introduced by *after*, *when*, *until*, *as soon as*, *once*, *by the time* and the time expressions *the minute/second/moment* the past simple refers to past, completed events and the present perfect refers to future events. Compare these examples:

- ☐ *After* she **left** hospital (past), she **had** a long holiday. *and*
- ☐ *After* Dominic **has left** school (future), he **will be** spending six months in India.
- ☐ *The minute* I **got** the news about Sue (past) I **telephoned** my parents. *and*
- ☐ I'll contact you *the minute* I've **got** my exam results. (future)

In the time clause in sentences like this it is possible to use the past perfect instead of the past simple (e.g. *After she had left...*) and the present simple instead of the present perfect (e.g. *After Dominic leaves...*) with the same meaning (see also Unit 5).

3.1 Choose a verb to complete the sentence. Use the present perfect or past simple. (A)

have go oversleep read spend wear

- 1 I a lot this week, but I have to get the book completely finished by this weekend.
- 2 A: Shall I make us some dinner? It's already 8 o'clock. B: No thanks. I to the dentist this afternoon and my mouth hurts too much to eat anything.
- 3 I three lectures today and I still have two more later this afternoon.
- 4 It was so hot today that I shorts and a T-shirt at work.
- 5 We £200 on food this month and there's another week to go before I get paid.
- 6 A: Do you want a lift home? B: No, I this morning because my alarm clock didn't go off, so I need to work late.

3.2 Complete the sentences with these pairs of verbs. (Note that the verb pairs are not always in sentence order.) Choose the most appropriate tense – present perfect or past simple. (C)

be able – feel happen – speak improve – be not want – fall rescue – be
work – not have

- 1 Maria to go swimming since she in the river.
- 2 Since she at the company she a day off through illness.
- 3 Since he the girl from the frozen pond, he on TV almost every day.
- 4 A lot since I last to you.
- 5 Since I to drive I much more independent
- 6 Robert's reading enormously since he at school.

3.3 Choose a verb that can complete both sentences in each pair. Use the present perfect in one and the past simple in the other. Use / to add any words outside the spaces. (E)

finish get hear sign

- 1 a Remember that after you the contract you won't be able to change your mind.
b Carlo's injury only became apparent after he to play for Real Madrid.
- 2 a As soon as I college I want to travel around Australia.
b I didn't have time to check the composition. I handed it in as soon as I it.
- 3 a By the time Sarah to work the meeting had finished.
b I'll probably have finished breakfast by the time the children up.
- 4 a I recognised her the moment I her laugh.
b I'll tell you what time we're coming the moment I from Frank.

3.4 Here are some extracts from a television news report. Choose the more appropriate tense – present perfect or past simple – for the verbs given. (B & D)

- 1 In tonight's World Cup match, France are currently beating Germany 2–1 with five minutes of the match to go. If the score remains the same it will be the first time Germany (lose) to France since 1998.
- 2 The Victoria Hospital in Milltown (close) to new patients after more cases of food poisoning. Three elderly patients (die) last week in the outbreak.
- 3 In last night's final Mark Peters (defeat) Ed Myers in three sets. It was the first time in six attempts that Peters (beat) the world champion.
- 4 Nearly 600 laptops (steal) from Ministry of Defence staff over the past five years. However, a spokesperson (insist) that there had been no security problems as none of the computers (hold) secret information.

Past continuous and past simple

A When we talk about two events or activities that went on over the same period of past time, we can often use the past continuous or the past simple for both:

- ☐ Sally **was reading** to the children while Kevin **was washing up**. (or ...read...washed up.)

Using the past continuous emphasises that the event or activity ('was reading') was in progress during the past period of time ('while Kevin was washing up'). Compare:

- ☐ When I **was learning/ learned** to drive I **was living** with my parents.

Was learning emphasises that the activity was in progress ('I had lessons during this time') and **learned** emphasises completion ('I passed my test during this time').

When we talk about two or more past completed events that followed one another, we use the past simple, not the past continuous, for both (see also Unit 5C):

- ☐ She **got up** when the alarm clock **went off**.
- ☐ He **jumped out of bed** and **ran** to see who the parcel **was for**.

B We usually use the past simple rather than the past continuous to talk about repeated past actions:

- ☐ We **went** to Spain three times last year.
- ☐ Did you **drive past** her house every day?

However, we can use the past continuous, particularly in spoken English, when we want to emphasise that repeated actions went on for a limited and temporary period of past time:

- ☐ When Carlo **was in hospital**, we **were visiting** him twice a day. (or ...we visited...)
- ☐ To lose weight before the race, I **wasn't eating** any sweets or biscuits for weeks. (or ...I didn't eat...)

or to talk about something that happened surprisingly often:

- ☐ Last week I **was having to** bring work home every night to get it all done. (or ...had...)
- ☐ When the builders **were here** I **was making** them cups of tea all the time. (or ...made...)

C We often use the past simple in a narrative (e.g. a report or a story) to talk about a single complete past event and the past continuous to describe the situation that existed at the time. The event might have interrupted the situation, or happened while the situation was in progress:

- ☐ Erika **dropped** her bag while she **was getting** into her car.
- ☐ She **was shaking** with anger as she **left** the hotel.

D We can use either the past continuous or past simple (or past perfect; see Unit 5E) to talk about things we intended to do but didn't:

- ☐ We **were meaning** to call in and see you, but Jane **wasn't feeling** well. (or We **meant**...)

Other verbs used like this include: consider + -ing; expect to; hope to; intend to; plan to/on + -ing; think about + -ing/of + -ing; want to. These verbs (with the exception of mean and expect) and wonder about can also be used with the present and past continuous to report what we might do in the future. The past continuous is less definite than the present continuous:

- ☐ I **was thinking of** going down to London next weekend, but it depends how much money I've got. (*less definite than I'm thinking of going...*)
- ☐ We **were wondering about** inviting Kay over tomorrow. (*less definite than We're wondering about...*)