

GRAMMAR

The present simple vs. the present continuous

LEVELBeginner (A1)

NUMBER EN A1 2013G

LANGUAGE English





Learning outcomes

 I can differentiate between when to use the present simple and when to use the present continuous.

 I can read and understand short texts using both tenses.



I'm driving to work.
It takes one hour.



The present simple

- Use the present simple to talk about an action that is regular or always true.
- Use personal pronouns, a verb and an object to form the present simple.

I	I am a teacher.
you	You are a student.
he	He likes music.
she	She is a doctor.
it	It is a bird.





Third person singular

Add s to the verb after the pronouns he, she and it.

It **take** twenty minutes.

He **live** in Sydney.

She work at a school.

It **takes** twenty minutes.

He **lives** in Sydney.

She works at a school.





Third person singular

Add **es** to verbs ending with **o**, **ch** and **sh**.

He **go** to my university.

She watch films at the cinema.

He wash his face in the morning.

He **goes** to my university.

She watches films at the cinema.

He washes his face in the morning.



The present simple

- Use the present simple to talk about an action that is regular or always true.
- Use personal pronouns, a verb and an object to form the present simple.

Regular actions in the present

Facts

Habits / Routines

General truths

I take the bus to school.

People **speak** English in Wales.

She **goes** to bed at midnight.

It **rains** a lot in Ireland.





I usually take the bus to school.

We can use the adverb **usually** to talk about regular actions.





Fill in the gaps

Use a **verb** in the **present simple** to complete these sentences.

1

She _____ coffee while doing her work.

2

I'm a doctor. I ______ in the local hospital.

3

He _____ to work by bus.



In Japan, people _____ Japanese.



Talk about yourself using these verbs











get up

have

go

work

do

I get up at 7.

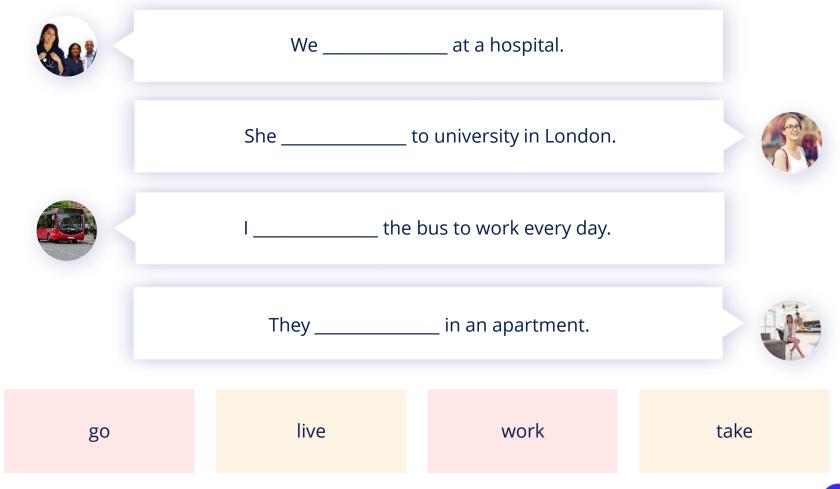
I have a dog.





Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct verb and fill in the gaps.







Find the mistakes

My name is Sergio. I lives in an apartment in Madrid with my wife. We both works at a hospital in the city. We takes the train together every morning. She eat lunch with her friend and I usually go to a restaurant.

After work, we goes shopping and we buy food for dinner. My wife cook and I cleans. We makes a great team!







The present continuous

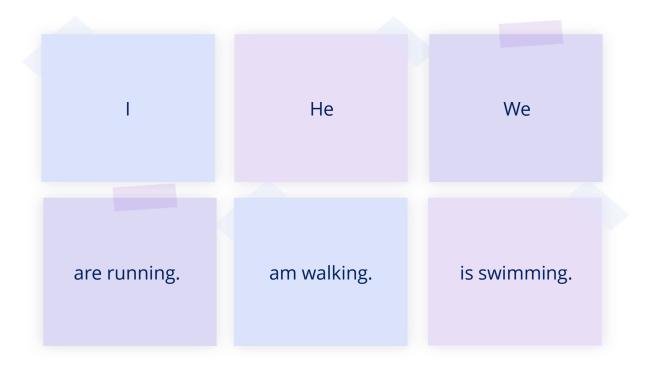
Use **the present continuous** to talk about actions happening **now**. Use **personal pronouns**, the verb **to be** and a verb with **-ing**.

Personal Pronoun	to be	verb + ing
1	am	eating.
You	are	dancing.
He/She/It	is	sleeping.
We	are	learning.
They	are	laughing.





Make three sentences







The present simple vs the present continuous

Use **the present simple** to talk about an action that is **regular** or **always true**. Use the **present continuous** to talk about actions happening **now**.

Present Simple	Present Continuous
He works on weekdays.	He is working today.
l play football on Wednesdays.	I am playing football now.
You go shopping at the weekend.	You are going shopping now.





Present continuous



Use the **present continuous** to describe what is happening in these pictures. Work in breakout rooms or together as a class!











Multiple choice

1	My sister at a bank. She goes there every day.	
	a. works	b. is working
2	I to music now.	
	a. listen	b. am listening
3	I go to the cinema	
	a. now	b. at the weekend





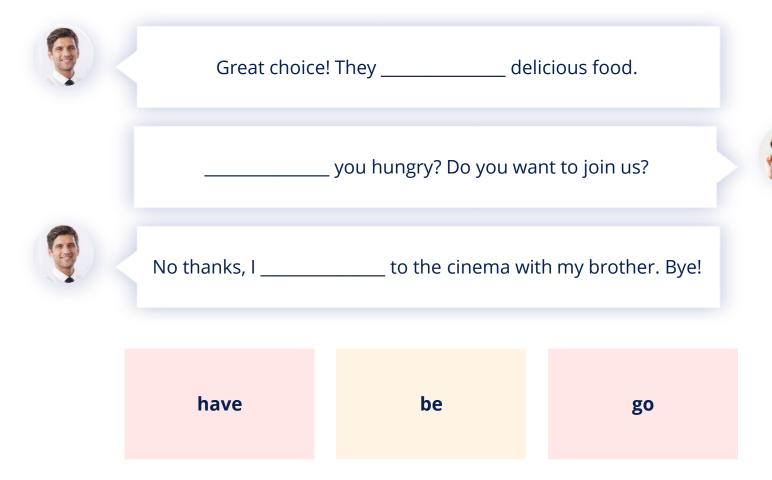
Complete the dialogue (1/2)







Complete the dialogue (2/2)





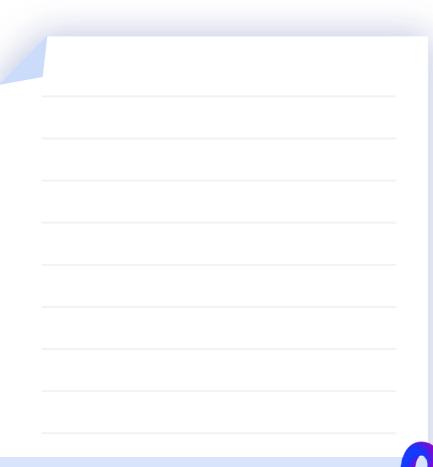
Writing

Write three things you **usually do** at the weekend.

Write three things you are doing now.







Let's reflect!

 Can you differentiate between when to use the present simple and when to use the present continuous?

Can you read and understand short texts using both tenses?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.



End of the lesson

Idiom

to go the extra mile

Meaning: to make more effort to do or achieve something

Example: Our teacher really went the extra mile and helped us out today.







Additional practice

Transform the sentences



Transform the sentences from **present simple to continuous**, or from **present continuous to simple**.

- 1 I am walking to work.
- I walk to work.

2 He is leaving.

>

3 She eats an apple.

>

4 They take the train to the city.

>

5 We are playing football.

>

6 You are ice skating.

>



Complete the sentences



Choose one of the words in brackets to complete the sentences.

1	I (usually/today) take the train to work, but (usually/today) I am walking because it is sunny.
2	My wife (always/right now) eats toast with jam for breakfast. Look! She is eating it (always/right now)!
3	I am wearing a suit to work (usually/this morning) but (usually/this morning) I wear jeans and a t-shirt.
4	(On Wednesdays/Now) I play rugby. I am walking there (on Wednesdays/now).
5	My son walks the dog (every morning/right now). He is walking the dog (every morning/right now).





Make sentences



Choose some of the verbs to make sentences in the **present simple** and the **present continuous**.



write an email drink water talk

speak English take the train play a game

go to bed work on the computer learn a language





Describe the pictures







Use the **present continuous** to make sentences about the pictures.



Answer key

P.9: 1) drinks, 2) work, 3) goes, 4) speak

P.11: work, goes, take, live

P.12: My name is Sergio. I lives (live) in an apartment in Madrid with my wife. We both works (work) at a hospital in the city. We takes (take) the train together every morning. She eat (eats) lunch with her friend and I usually go to a restaurant.

After work, we goes **(go)** shopping and we buy food for dinner. My wife cook **(cooks)** and I cleans **(clean)**. We makes **(make)** a great team!

P.14: I am walking. He is swimming. We are running.

P.17: 1) a, 2) a, 3) b

P.18: are, doing – am, waiting – are, going – meet

P.19: have – Are – am going





Answer key



P.24: 2) He leaves. 3) She is eating an apple. 4) They are taking the train to the city.. 5) They play football. 6) You ice skate.

P.25: 1) usually – today, 2) always – right now, 3) this morning – usually, 4) On Wednesdays – now, 5) every morning – right now



Summary

The present simple:

- Use the present simple to talk about an action that is regular or always true.
- Use personal pronouns, a verb and an object to form the present simple.
- Add s to the verb after the pronouns he, she and it; add es to verbs ending with o, ch and sh

Uses of the present simple:

- Use the present simple to talk about an action that is regular or always true.
- Use personal pronouns, a verb and an object to form the present simple.
- I start work at 9. I go to the gym every day.

The present continuous:

- Use the present continuous to talk about actions happening now.
- Use personal pronouns, the verb to be and a verb with -ing.
- I am eating.

The present simple vs the present continuous:

- Use the present simple to talk about an action that is regular or always true.
- Use the present continuous to talk about actions happening now.





Vocabulary

to take

bird

coffee

Japan

to clean

to dance

to laugh





Notes



