

GRAMMAR

The present simple vs. the present continuous

LEVEL

Beginner (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

you

he

she

it

I am a teacher.

You are a student.

He likes music.

She is a doctor.

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.

4



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.



We _____ at a hospital.

She _____ to university in London.



I _____ the bus to work every day.

They _____ in an apartment.



go

live

work

take



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
I	am	eating.
You	are	dancing.
He/She/It	is	sleeping.
We	are	learning.
They	are	laughing.



Make three sentences

I

He

We

are running.

am walking.

is swimming.

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

He **works** on weekdays.

I **play** football on Wednesdays.

You **go** shopping at the weekend.

Present Continuous

He **is working** today.

I **am playing** football now.

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)



Hi Clare, what _____ you _____ here?

I _____ for my friend.



Where _____ you _____ ?

We usually _____ at this restaurant.



do

wait

go

meet



Complete the dialogue (2/2)



Great choice! They _____ delicious food.

_____ you hungry? Do you want to join us?



No thanks, I _____ to the cinema with my brother. Bye!

have

be

go



Writing

Write three things you
usually do at the weekend.

Write three things you
are doing now.





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

