

The present simple vs. the present continuous

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Beginner

NUMBER
EN_BE_1213G

LANGUAGE
English

lingoda

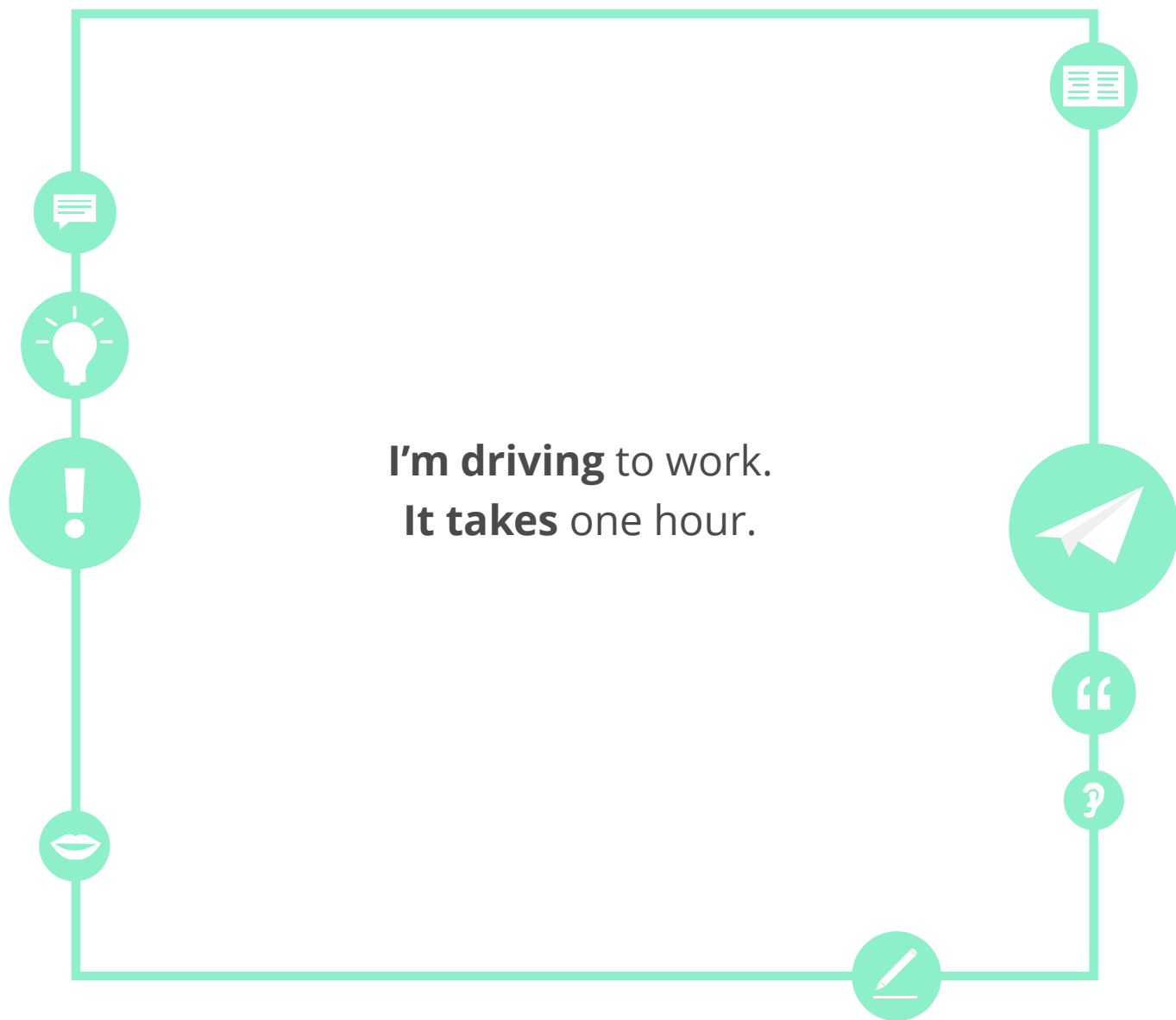




Goals

- Can recognise and understand the difference between the present simple and the present continuous
- Can identify and form basic sentences using these tenses correctly with different personal pronouns







Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you will learn when to use **the present simple** vs. when to use **the present continuous**.



I usually **work** until 4pm but today I'm **working** until 3pm.



The present simple

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

Personal pronoun	Verb	Object
I	work	at Microsoft.
You	like	working.
We	live	in London.
They	have	a desk and two chairs.



Third person singular



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

He **have** a desk.



He **has** a desk.

She **work** at a school.



She **works** at a school.

It **take** 10 mins to get to work.



It **takes** 10 mins to get to work.



The present simple

- Here are some examples of when to use **the present simple**.

When to use it	Example
Regular actions in the present	I take the bus to work.
Facts	John is kind.
Habits / Routines	She goes to work at 8 am.
General truths	It rains a lot in Ireland.



Complete the sentences

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



She _____ coffee while doing her work.



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



He _____ to work by bus.



In Japan, people _____ Japanese.



Complete the sentences

Use the correct form of the present simple.



We _____ (work) at a hospital.

She _____ (work) in London.



I _____ (take) the bus to work every day.

They _____ (speak) to their boss.





Find the mistakes

Find and correct the 6 mistakes in the text.

My name is Sergio. I works in Madrid. I have an office with my colleague. We both works at a hospital in the city. We takes the train together every morning. He eat lunch with his friend and I usually go to a restaurant.

In our office we has two desks and two chairs. We also have a photocopier and a printer. And there are two laptops. We makes a great team!





Talk about yourself using these verbs

live

get up

have

go

work

do



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 with <i>-ing</i>
I	am	working.
You	are	speaking.
He/She/It	is	writing.
We	are	sending an email.
They	are	helping me with my work.



Make three sentences

I

He

We

are working.

am calling my
boss.

is going to work.



The present simple vs. the present continuous

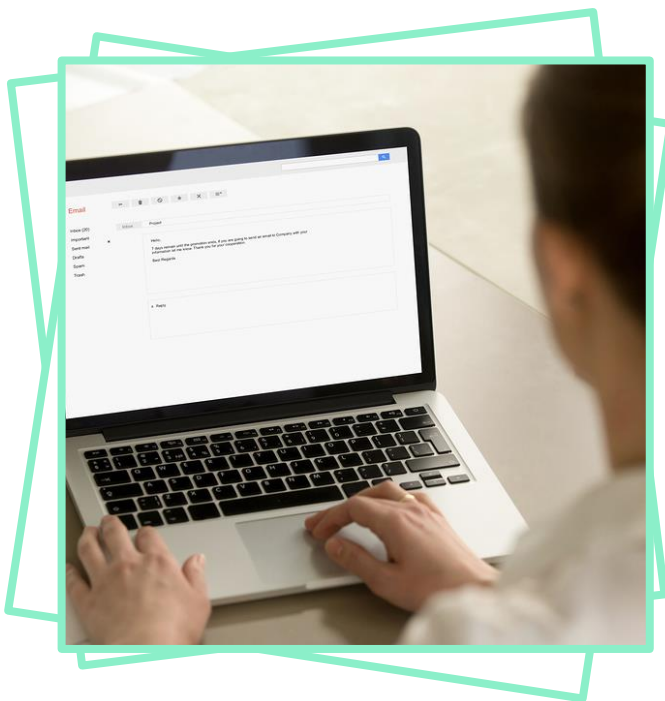
- Use **the present simple** to talk about an action that is **regular** or **always true**.
- Use the **present continuous** to talk about actions happening **now**.

Present simple	Present continuous
I play football with my colleagues on Wednesdays.	I am playing football with my colleagues now.
You go to your office after lunch.	You are going to your office now.
He works on weekdays.	He is working today.



What is happening?

Use the **present continuous** to describe what is happening in these pictures.





What is happening?

Use the **present continuous** to describe what is happening in these pictures.





What is happening?

Use the **present continuous** to describe what is happening in these pictures.





Choose the correct answer

1. My sister _____ at a bank.

a. works

b. is working.

2. I _____ an email now.

a. am writing

b. write

3. I go to work by bus _____ .

a. now

b. every day



Fill in the gaps

Use the verbs to fill in the gaps. Choose present simple or present continuous.

1. She always _____ her boss in the morning. She _____ her now. (call)
2. I _____ an email now. I usually _____ emails in the afternoon. (write)
3. Julian _____ at his desk all day. He _____ there right now. (sit)
4. Elena _____ at home today. She usually _____ in the office. (work)





Present simple or present continuous?



do

Hi Clare, what _____ you
_____ here?

go

Where _____ you
_____ ?

have

Great choice! They _____ very
good coffee.

meet

No thanks, I _____ my boss
here.

I _____ for my colleague.

wait

We usually _____ at this café
and talk about our work.

meet

Do you _____ to join us?

want



Writing

**Write three things you usually do at work.
Write three things you are doing now.**





Speaking

Talk to your classmates and ask the questions below. Use your answers from the previous activity.

What do you usually do at work? What are you doing now?





Tell your teacher!

He goes to school.
He is doing an
exam today.

- Tell your teacher about your classmates' answers.
- Remember to use the third person form!



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p.8

1. drinks – 2. work – 3. goes – 4. speak

Exercise p9

Work – goes – take – live

Exercise p.10

My name is Sergio. I **work** in Madrid. I have an office with my colleague. We both **work** at a hospital in the city. We **take** the train together every morning. He **eats** lunch with his friend and I usually go to a restaurant.
In our office we **have** two desks and two chairs. We also have a photocopier and a printer. And there are two laptops. We **make** a great team!

Exercise p.13

I am calling my boss. – He is going to work. – We are working.

Exercise p.18

1. a – 2. a – 3. b

Exercise p. 19

1. calls, is calling – 2. am writing, write – 3. sits, is sitting – 4. is working, works

Exercise p.20

are, doing – am, waiting – are, going – meet – have – want – am meeting





Change the sentences

1. I **work** at my desk.

→ I **am working** at my desk.

2. He works in London.

→ _____

3. You write emails.

→ _____

4. We use a computer.

→ _____

5. They learn English.

→ _____

6. You go to work.

→ _____

7. She drives to work.

→ _____

8. My lazy colleague sleeps at work.

→ _____



Writing

Write about one of your colleagues. Write 3 things they usually do at work and 3 things you think they are doing now.

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Homework answer key

Exercise p.27

- 2.** He is working in London. – **3.** You are writing emails. – **4.** We are using a computer. –
5. They are learning English. – **6.** You are going to work. – **7.** She is driving to work. –
8. My lazy colleague is sleeping at work.



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