

GRAMMAR

Reviewing the present tense

LEVEL

Elementary (A2)

NUMBER

EN_A2_1023G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can identify when to use the present simple and when to use the present continuous.
- I can correctly spell some irregular '-ing' forms.



Warm-up

“ I always eat breakfast. I often drink tea at breakfast but I never drink coffee. In fact, I am drinking tea right now!

Can you find an example of the **present simple**?

Can you find an example of the **present continuous**?

Do you always eat breakfast?

Are you drinking anything right now?





The present simple

We use **the present simple** to talk about **routines** → what we do every day
We can use the adverbs ***always***, ***often*** and ***never***.

always	often	never
I always brush my teeth before bed.	I often have pasta for dinner.	I never watch football on television.
I always eat breakfast.	I often drink coffee in the morning.	I never drink coffee before bed.

Eat or have?



I usually **eat** a light lunch just before my afternoon meetings.

Do you want to **have** dinner at ours tonight?

In English, you can mostly use these verbs **interchangeably** to talk about meals.

It's more common to use **have** when you invite someone for a meal at your place.



The present simple

We also use **the present simple** to talk about things that are **generally true** and for **facts**.

If something is **generally true**, it is true now but maybe it will change in the future.
A **fact** is true forever.

generally true

I live in England.

I love chocolate.

fact

Water boils at 100 degrees celsius.

Tigers eat meat.

He, she and it in the present simple

To form the present simple in the third person, we add an **s** or an **es**.

I, you, we, they

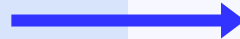
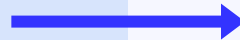
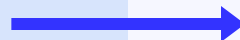
go

eat

play

drink

watch



he, she, it

goes

eats

plays

drinks

watches



Match the sentence to the picture

1 I live in Canada.

2 I always drink milk in the morning.

3 I often eat meat.

4 The Moon moves around the Earth.

a



b



c



d





Choose the correct option

John and Alex _____ best friends. They
_____ to go to a bar in the evening. Every
Saturday John _____ football. Alex
_____ to go to the gym. He goes every
Sunday.



prefers

like

are

plays



Which verb is the odd one out?

eat

drink

watch

play

get

meet

Clue: think about their third person form.



Transform the sentences

Transform the sentences from 1st person singular to 3rd person singular.

1 I play football on Fridays.



She plays football on Fridays.

2 I eat breakfast every day.



3 I go to school by bus.



4 I always drink water in the morning.



5 I watch TV in the evening.



6 I clean the house on Sundays.





How often does Maria do these things?

Make sentences about Maria using the adverbs of frequency.

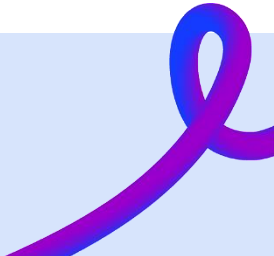
Activity	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
eat breakfast					✓	✓	✓
study English	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
drink coffee							
have a shower	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

always

often

sometimes

never





Complete the sentences

Describe your routine using the verbs: *go, eat, play, drink* and *watch*.
You can do this with a partner **in breakout rooms**. How similar are your routines?

1 On Sundays, I...

2 On Monday morning, I...

3 On Thursday evening, I...

4 Every lunchtime, I...

5 On Saturdays, I usually...





The present continuous

We use the **present continuous** to talk about things that are happening now

We make the present continuous with **be** + a verb in **-ing form**.

We can use the words **now**, **at the moment** and **look!**

now	at the moment	Look!
I am playing now.	She is eating at the moment.	Look! He is singing.
We are learning English now.	It is raining at the moment.	Look! They are eating chocolate.

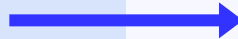


The present continuous

Some verbs change their spelling when we add **-ing**.

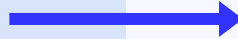
These are **exceptions** to the rule.

travel



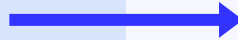
travelling

control



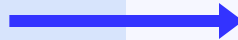
controlling

die



dying

lie



lying



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct verb and **put** it in the *-ing* form.

1. I don't believe you! You are _____.

2. He can't answer his phone. He is _____ right now.

3. Did you water the flowers? I think they are _____.

4. James is _____ the company while his boss is on holiday.

5. The weather is terrible. It is _____ so hard!



die

manage

travel

rain

lie



What is happening in these pictures?

1



2



3



4



Match the beginnings and endings

He is

She never

to the
cinema

eat dinner at
6pm

I am eating

We are going

dinner at the
moment

They always

takes the bus
to work

going to work now



Present simple or continuous?

1 He is _____ a bike.

a. ride

b. riding

2 We are _____ English now.

a. learning

b. learn

3 They _____ to Paris every summer.

a. travel

b. travelling



Present simple or continuous?

- 1 He _____ to work at 9am every day.
- 2 She _____ to work.
- 3 We always _____ breakfast together.
- 4 They _____ in the bar now.
- 5 I never _____ television.
- 6 Look! The dog _____ your newspaper.

eat
have
go
watch
sit
walk



About you

How often do you do these things?
What are you doing **right now**?



listen to music

walk the dog

sit at the desk

make dinner

practise English

work online

play an
instrument

watch a TV series

drink coffee



End of the lesson

Idiom

hit the hay

Meaning: go to bed

Example: I think it's time to hit the hay – I have to get up early tomorrow.



Additional practice



When do we use these words?

Present simple

Present continuous

always

at the moment

right now

never

sometimes

every day

Look!

On Fridays

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Complete the sentences

- 1 What _____ (you)? It looks scary!
- 2 When my sister goes on holidays, I _____ her shop.
- 3 At the moment, I _____ in a studio apartment, but my contract ends soon.
- 4 Do you often _____ to your parents on the phone?
- 5 Sorry for not replying to your texts. I _____ around South America right now.
- 6 We need some help in room three! We _____ the table and it's very heavy.

travel
live
watch
manage
move
talk



What have we got in common?

Write your answers. When everyone is ready, post them into the chat and compare the answers!

**What do you never do
on the weekend?**



**What do you do
most Monday
evenings?**

**What is one thing that
you eat or drink every
day?**



Answer key

P. 8: 1. d 2. c 3. a 4. b

P. 9: are; like; plays; prefers

P. 10: watch because the 3rd person singular is watch**es**, while the other verbs take **-s** at the end for 3rd person singular.

P. 12: Suggested answers:

Maria/she always has a shower.

She often studies English.

She never drinks coffee.

She sometimes eats breakfast.

P. 16: 1. lying 2. travelling 3. dying 4. managing 5. raining

P. 19: 1. b 2. a 3. a

P. 20: 1. goes 2. walks 3. eat 4. are sitting 5. watch 6. is eating

P. 25: Present simple: always, never, sometimes, every day, on Fridays. Present continuous: at the moment, right now, Look!

P. 26: 1. are you watching 2. manage 3. am living 4. talk 5. am travelling 6. are moving



Summary

The present simple:

- We use **the present simple** to talk about routines, e.g. what we do every day.
- Remember to add -s to the verb with *he, she* and *it*.
- We can use the adverbs ***always, often*** and *never*, e.g. *I always clean my teeth before bed*.

The present simple:

- We also use **the present simple** to talk about things that are **generally true** and for **facts**.
- *I love chocolate.*
- *Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.*

The present continuous:

- We use the **present continuous** to talk about things that are happening now. We make the present continuous with ***be + -ing form***. Remember, some verbs change their spelling with -ing.
- We can use the words ***now, at the moment*** and ***look!***, e.g. *I am working at the moment*.



Vocabulary

always

often

never

now

at the moment

Look!



Notes

