

Unit 1 The correction of mistakes

Exercise 1

1. I doubt whether I'll get another chance to retake the exam. - We use 'doubt' because some verb describing preferences and mental states (e.g agree, conclude, know, prefer, believe) are rarely used with the present continuous
2. I suppose she might be at home tonight, but I doubt it - We use 'doubt' because some verb describing preferences and mental states (e.g agree, conclude, know, prefer, believe) are rarely used with the present continuous
3. What is your shirt made from? It feels like silk. - Some verbs have different meaning when they are used to talk about states and when they describe actions.

What is your shirt made from? It feels like silk (feel: state = sense)

1. What's that noise? It sounds like a bird stuck in the chimney. - Here the verb 'sound' describes the characteristic of the sound that you hear at the moment (state), and not the changing activity (action).

Exercise 2

1. I understand biology a lot better now that we have got a new teacher. - Not changing action. With some words describing mental states (e.g find, realise, regret, think, understand) we can use the present continuous to emphasise that we have recently started to think about something or we are not sure about something, but it's not that case.
2. She says that she wasn't in the kitchen when the bottle smashed, but I refuse to believe her. With some words describing mental states (e.g find, realise, regret, think, understand) we can use the present continuous to emphasise that we have recently started to think about something or we are not sure about something, but it's not that case.
3. I certainly agree with you that people shouldn't drink and drive. - With some words describing mental states (e.g find, realise, regret, think, understand) we can use the present continuous to emphasise that we have recently started to think about something or we are not sure about something, but it's not that case. Some verb describing preferences and mental states (e.g agree, conclude, know, prefer, believe) are rarely used with the present continuous.

4. It's very difficult for us to get jobs here so we are considering emigrating to Canada. - When it means 'think carefully about' the verb *consider* is only used with the present continuous: He is considering taking early retirement (*not* He considers taking early retirement)