

Present Simple vs. Present Continuous

Present Simple

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| +s | listens |
| ss, sh, ch, tch, x, o + es | presses, washes, teaches, matches, boxes, goes |
| Vowel +y + s | says |
| Consonant + y → ies | tidies |

Present Continuous

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| + ing | speaking |
| e + ing | driving |
| double consonant + ing | putting |
| ie → y + ing | lie - lying |

We use present simple for :

- **Permanent state, repeated actions and daily routines.**
Linda lives in Radomir / permanent state/
Tom goes to school by bus / repeated action/
I get up at 5:30 every morning/ daily routine/
- **Scheduled actions / timetables, programmes/.** The train to Sofia leaves at 9am.
 - **Likes and dislikes.** Jenney likes tennis.
- **General truths or laws of nature.** The sun sets in the west.

We use present continuous for:

- **Actions happening at the moment of speaking.** Keep quiet! The baby is sleeping.
- **Temporary actions or actions happening around the time of speaking.** The Smiths are looking for a new flat at the moment.
- **Actions arranged for the near future/ the time and place have been decided/.** I'm flying to Paris at 1 o'clock tomorrow.
- **Actions expressing annoyance, irritation or anger / always, constantly, continuously/.** You are always leaving your newspapers on the floor. I'm sick and tired of you.

Expressions

Always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, every day, on Tuesday, in the morning, at night/weekend/.

State verbs

Expressions

Now, at the moment, these days, at present, nowadays, still.

State verbs with a difference in meaning

I think Tom needs my help / = I believe/

This pizza tastes delicious / it has a delicious flavor/

I can see well / I see/

Linda looks very tired / = she appears to be/

The kitchen always smells of freshly baked bread/ has the
smell/

This dress feels like silk. / the material is soft/

She has a new house. / she owns/

Exercises

1. I (fly) to New York tomorrow.
2. The Smiths (live) in Cardiff.
3. Tom (paint) the house at the moment.
4. Linda (like) her new school.
5. The train to Sofia (leave) at 17:00.
6. We (look) for new furniture for the living room at present.
7. (You, go) to Spain this summer?
8. The Earth (move) round the Sun.
9. Tom (work) as a waiter in Velvet café.
10. We (stay) at a beautiful hotel by the sea.
11. Helen (like) cats and dogs.
12. She (do) exercises 4 times a week.
13. I (write) a letter to Tom right now.
14. Water (freeze) at 0 °C.

Choose the correct form of the verb

1. Stacey goes/is going shopping every Saturday .

I'm thinking of buying a new bike. / = I'm considering/

He is tasting the pizza. / = he is testing the flavor/

I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow. / = I'm meeting/

Tom is looking at her. / = he is observing/

Linda is smelling the red roses in the garden. / = she is
sniffing/.

Why are you feeling Linda's forehead? / you are touching/

We are having dinner / we are eating/

- A) A permanent state
- B) A temporary action
- C) A scheduled action
- D) An action arranged for the near future
- E) A general truth
- F) An action happening now
- G) Likes/dislikes
- H) A routine

7. He doesn't speak / isn't speaking 7 languages.

2. Bob drives/ is driving the children to the match tonight.
3. Julie enjoys/ is enjoying listening to classical music.
4. Do they play/ Are they playing in the garden at the moment?
5. John and Mary hate / are hating adventure holidays.
6. They look / are looking for a house to rent.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form/
present simple or continuous/

Dear Philip,

I (write) to tell you about my holiday. I (stay) with my friend in Spain for two weeks. It (be) usually sunny at this time of the year, but at the moment it (rain). Tomorrow morning we (go) sightseeing and in the evening we (plan) to go out for a nice meal. We both (enjoy) Spanish food very much. I (arrive) home next Saturday.

Love,
Carol

8. The flight to London departs / is departing at 12:00.
9. Mrs. Smith is teaching / teaches English at Nikola Vaptsarov School.
10. Melanie doesn't like / isn't liking mini-skirts.
11. Water boils/ is boiling at 100⁰ C .
12. What do you do/ are you doing this Friday night?

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form/
present simple or continuous/

Bridget (go) to school every morning at 8 o'clock. Right now, she (sit) next to her friend, Sue. Their teacher (talk) to them about Argentina and they (try) to find it on the globe. Bridget (love) Geography but she (hate) Maths. Every month ,the teacher (show) the class a film about another country. Bridget really (enjoy) these films. In fact, she (want) to be a Geography teacher one day.