

01 Present continuous Talking about the present

- 1 Some examples of the **present continuous** (be + -ing):
I'm reading a good book at the moment.
She isn't working at this office today.
What are you doing now?

- 2 Forms of the **present continuous**:

POSITIVE

I am / 'm starting
 you / we / they are / 're starting
 he / she / it is / 's starting

NEGATIVE

I am not / 'm not starting
 you / we / they are not / 're not / aren't starting
 he / she / it is not / 's not / isn't starting

QUESTIONS

am I starting
 are you / we / they starting
 is he / she / it starting

- 3 The **-ing** form:

For most verbs, add **-ing**:

work → working play → playing

For verbs ending **-e**, take away **-e** and add **-ing**:

take → taking write → writing

For many verbs ending with one vowel and one consonant, double the last letter and add **-ing**:

run → running sit → sitting

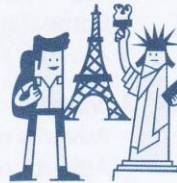
(For more information on the **-ing** form, see p. 130.)

Grammar in action

- 1 We use the **present continuous** to talk about actions and describe situations at the present moment:
What are you doing at the moment? ~ I'm sitting on the sofa. It's raining outside.



- 2 We use the **present continuous** for actions and situations in the present period of time, but not at this exact moment:
What's Jack doing these days? ~ He's travelling around the world. He's visiting lots of countries.



- 3 We use the **present continuous** for present situations that are temporary or different from usual. This example describes a change in someone's usual routine:
Kathy has an office but she's working at home today.

A What I'm doing now

Alice is on a train. Complete what she says using the present continuous and the words in brackets. Use short forms if possible.

- 0 *I'm sitting* on a train. (I/sit)
 1 a cup of coffee. (I/drink)
 2 the station now. (We/leave)
 3 to Manchester. (The train/go)
 4 to a meeting. (I/travel)
 5 What at the moment? (you/do)
 6 Me? a phone call to you! (I/make)

B The big match

Complete the descriptions of the football match using the words in brackets and the present continuous forms of the correct verbs from the box.

leave run blow talk wear look shine celebrate play

- 0 Good afternoon. *I'm talking* to you from the National Stadium. (I)
- 1 It's a lovely day at the stadium. _____ and it's warm. (The sun)
- 2 _____ out onto the field. (The teams)
- 3 _____ white shirts and Wales are in red. (The England players)
- 4 _____ well and it's a good game. (Both teams)
- 5 _____ happy. It's 1-0 to England. (The England fans)
- 6 It's half-time. _____ the field. (The players)
- 7 Another goal for England and _____. (the players)
- 8 _____ his whistle and it's the end of the game. (The referee)

C News of friends

Tom and Rose are talking about people they know. Complete their conversation using the present continuous and the words in brackets. Use short forms.

- TOM How's Michael?
 ROSE He's fine. *He's working*.⁰ (He/work) in Italy at the moment.
 TOM Really? _____¹ (What/he/do) there?
 ROSE _____² (He/spend) a year at his company's office in Rome.
 _____³ (He/learn) Italian and _____⁴ (he/have) fun.
 TOM And what about Olivia?
 ROSE _____⁵ (She/live) in a different flat now. And _____⁶
 (she/not go out) with Frank any more. In fact, _____⁷ (they/not talk)
 to each other now.
 TOM Oh dear. Poor Frank.
 ROSE He's fine. _____⁸ (He/enjoy) himself. _____⁹ (He/not sit)
 at home alone. _____¹⁰ (He/take) lots of girls to bars and night clubs.
 TOM Oh, I see. Lucky Frank!

D Changes in my town

Complete this report about changes in a town using the present continuous and the correct verbs from the box.

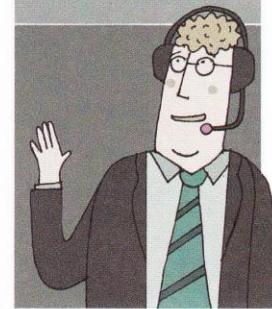
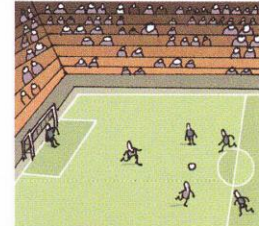
not use talk go tell not do change cause move not listen
 not travel get

My town *is changing*.⁰ a lot. The population _____¹ bigger because
 people _____² from the countryside to the town. This _____³
 traffic problems. People _____⁴ public transport very much and they
 _____⁵ on bikes. Too many cars _____⁶ into the town centre.
 The authorities _____⁷ people to stop using their cars so much, but
 people _____⁸. People _____⁹ about the problem but they
 _____¹⁰ anything to solve it.

If you are celebrating
 because of
 something, you are
 feeling:

WORD
 FOCUS

- A very sad about it
- B very angry about it
- C very happy about it.



02 Present simple

Forms, uses, and contexts

- 1 Some examples of the **present simple**:
- I **read** a newspaper every day.*
*She **doesn't like** this kind of music.*
*When **does** the party **start** tomorrow?*

2 Forms of the **present simple**:

POSITIVE

I/you/we/they **know**
 he/she/it **knows**

NEGATIVE

I/you/we/they **do not know / don't know**
 he/she/it **does not know / doesn't know**

QUESTIONS

do I/you/we/they **know**
does he/she/it **know**

3 The **he/she/it** form:

For most verbs, add **-s**:

work → works like → likes buy → buys

For verbs ending **-ch, -o, -sh, -x** and **-ss**, add **-es**:

catch → catches go → goes
 wash → washes fix → fixes
 pass → passes

For verbs ending with a consonant and **-y**,
 take away **-y** and add **-ies**:

study → studies cry → cries fly → flies

For **have**:

have → has

(For more information on the **he/she/it** form, see p. 129.)

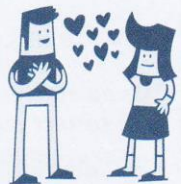
Grammar in action

- 1 We use the **present simple** for facts and things that are always true:
*Some doctors **work** in hospitals.*

- 2 We use the **present simple** for habits and repeated actions:
*She **takes** the bus to work.*



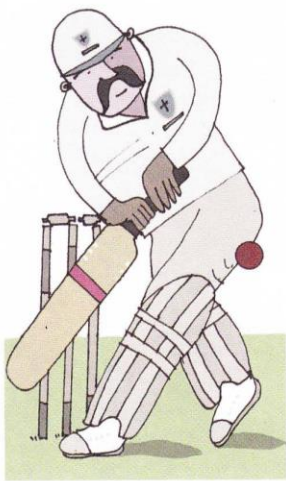
- 3 We use the **present simple** to talk about thoughts or feelings, for example to say what we *like, want, think, or know*:
*He **loves** her very much.*



- 4 We use the **present simple** for the **future**, to talk about events on a timetable. Here, someone is looking at a TV schedule:

*The film tomorrow **starts** at 8.30 and **finishes** at 11.*

A Some facts about cricket



These are some facts about the sport of cricket. If the verb form is correct, put a tick (✓). If the verb form is incorrect, write the correct verb form.

- 0 A cricket team have has 11 players and they usually wear ✓ white.
- 1 Cricket has _____ a lot of rules and lots of people aren't understand _____ it.
- 2 In a game of cricket, the bowler throws _____ the ball and the batsman trys _____ to hit it.
- 3 The fielders stand _____ around the field and they stop _____ the ball.
- 4 If a fielder catches _____ the ball, the batsman is 'out,' and he leaves _____ the field.
- 5 If the batsman doesn't hits _____ the ball and the ball hits _____ the wicket, he is also out.
- 6 You win _____ a game if you score _____ more 'runs' than the other team.
- 7 Some cricket matches lasts _____ for five days and nobody wins _____ !
- 8 Some people doesn't like _____ cricket but millions watch _____ it on TV.

B A typical day at work

Complete this magazine article by a businesswoman, using the present simple forms of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms for negatives.

Business as usual

I usually arrive⁰ (arrive) at the office very early. My assistant Cheryl¹ (bring) me the mail and² (tell) me what is in my diary for the day. She³ (do) a lot of very important work for me – she⁴ (organize) my day and⁵ (deal) with a lot of people for me. Then I⁶ (have) a meeting with my team of managers – we⁷ (discuss) plans and problems. Sometimes they⁸ (not agree) with me but the meetings usually⁹ (not last) for very long.

I¹⁰ (not eat) much at lunchtime – the others¹¹ (go) to the canteen but I¹² (stay) in my office and someone¹³ (get) me a sandwich. My day usually¹⁴ (finish) at about 6 p.m.

I¹⁵ (not go) to the office every day. I¹⁶ (work) at home some days and I sometimes¹⁷ (travel) to meetings or conferences.

C Using the library

Complete the questions and answers in a survey of people using a library, using the present simple and the words in brackets.

- INTERVIEWER Do you live⁰ in the local area? (you/live)
WOMAN Yes, I live⁰ close to here. (I/live)
INTERVIEWER¹ this library very often? (you/visit)
WOMAN No,² here very often. (I/not come)
INTERVIEWER What³ in the library? (you/do)
WOMAN⁴ the newspapers and⁵ books. (I/read) (I/borrow)
INTERVIEWER What kind of books⁶? (you/borrow)
WOMAN Fiction.⁷ a good fiction section. (The library/have)
INTERVIEWER⁸ the library? (other members of your family/use)
WOMAN Yes,⁹ some of her college work here. (my daughter/do)

Which of these words in exercise B is not used only in connection with work?

- A** office
B diary
C canteen
D conferences

WORD
FOCUS

D Timetable for tomorrow's school trip

Complete this notice about a school trip in the future, using the present simple and the correct verbs from the list.

go start meet show leave return finish get attend arrive have

Here are the details for tomorrow's trip. We meet⁰ outside the school at 8. The coach¹ at 8.30 so don't be late! We² at the museum at 10. A guide³ us round the museum from 10 to 12. We⁴ to the museum restaurant for lunch at 12 and we⁵ lunch from 12 to 1. In the afternoon, we⁶ a lecture in one of the lecture rooms. It⁷ at 1 and⁸ at 2.30. We⁹ back on the coach at 3 and we¹⁰ to the school at 4.30.