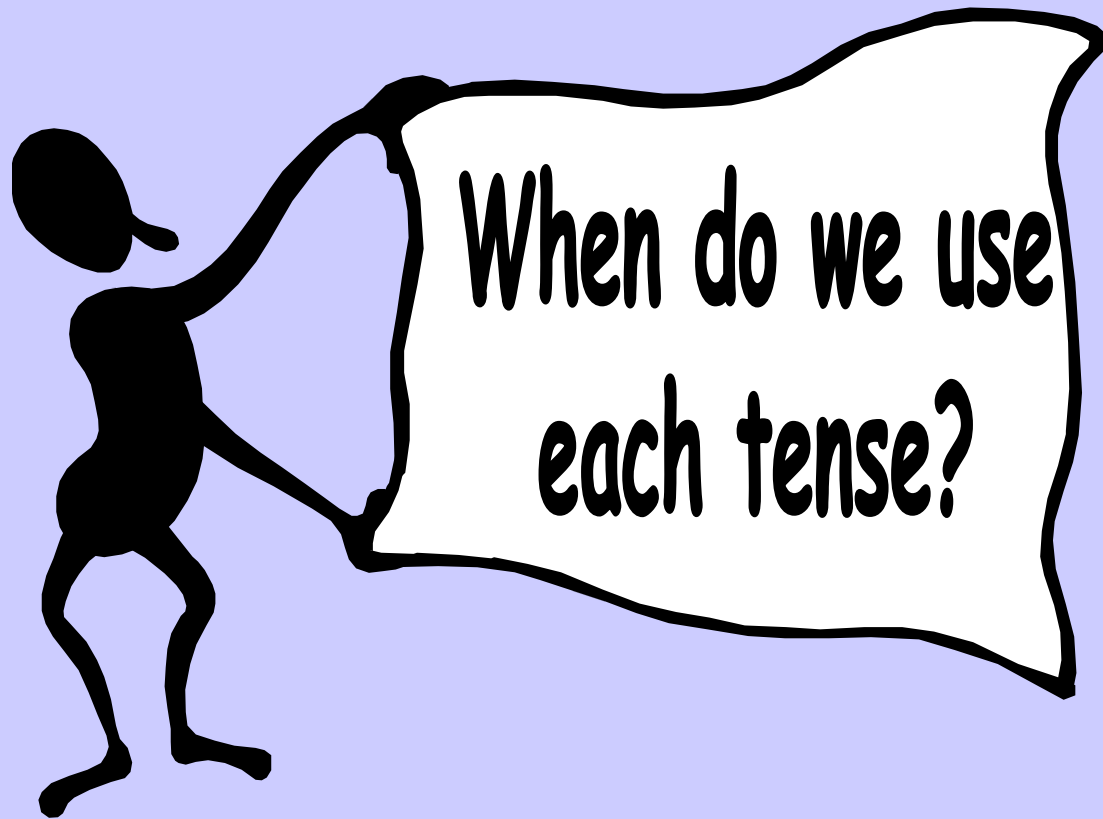


Simple Present vs. Present Continuous



Use the **simple present** for:

- 1) action that happens repeatedly (habitual action)
- 2) general or permanent situations
- 3) facts

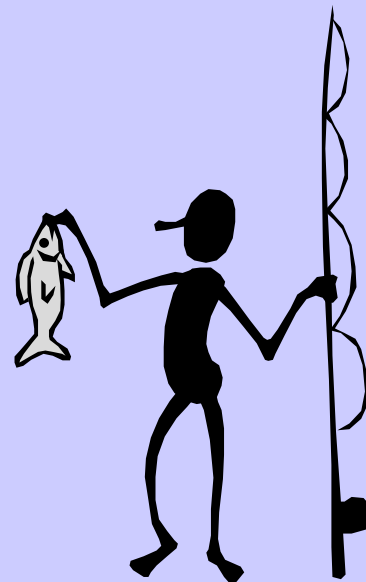
Use the **present continuous** for:

- 1) Something that is happening now or close to the time of speaking
- 2) A temporary situation

Simple Present Tense

1) Habitual Action:

Tom goes fishing every week.



I usually work until 2:00 p.m.

My family comes to visit me every year.

*Frequency adverbs: these adverbs are commonly used with simple present:

Always, never, usually, rarely,
sometimes, often, etc.

Simple Present

2) General or Permanent Situations:

My family lives far away.

Jack doesn't work on Saturday.

Beth and Toan work at ECC.

3) Facts:

The Earth is round.

Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.

The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.



Present Continuous Tense

1) Action happening now or close to time of speaking:

Where's Tom? He's playing soccer.



Don't bother the kids. They are doing their homework.

2) Temporary situations:

Martha and her husband are traveling around Europe for two weeks.

Lisa is living with friends until she finds an apartment.

Present Continuous . . .

We often use the present continuous (and not simple present) when action continues over a period of time.

this week, this semester, this year

I'm working 50 hours this week.

She's taking an Italian class this semester.

This year, I'm trying to cut back on junk food.



More Examples:

Everyone **is studying** hard.

They **are celebrating** their 40th anniversary today.

I **am cleaning** my house this week.



1) Sara works on Sunday.
Sara **doesn't work** on Sunday.

2) They have a big house.
They **don't have** a big house.

3) Sam takes classes at night.
Sam **doesn't take** classes at night.

4) I have a lot of free time.
I **don't have** a lot of free time.

More Examples

For this tense, simply ADD the word **NOT** after the verb BE.

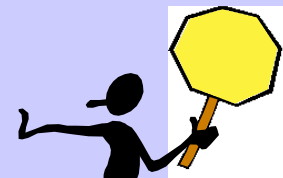
They are working today.

They are **NOT** working today.

She is taking a Math class.

She is **NOT** taking a Math class.

STATIVE VERBS



Some verbs are NOT typically used in the present continuous tense. Instead, we prefer to use these verbs in the simple present.

These verbs are called **STATIVE** (or non-action) verbs. Here are some examples:

want	like	love	hate
know	need	see	hear
believe	understand	have (possession)	
forget	remember	belong	

Examples:

I like Rome.

NOT: ~~I am liking Rome.~~



She has a big house.

NOT: ~~She is having a big house.~~

I prefer to have coffee.

NOT: ~~I am preferring to have coffee.~~

Practice!

Do these exercises with your class.

Choose the simple present or present continuous and discuss why each is correct.

1. On Tuesdays, I _____ (go) to the gym.
2. Karen _____ (paint) her apartment this week.
3. This room _____ (be) very large.
4. He _____ (have) a headache right now.
5. It _____ (rain) really hard right now.
6. Where is John? He _____ (work).
7. I _____ (meet) my friend in a few minutes.
8. My family _____ (come) to San Diego often.

Answers!

1. On Tuesdays, I go to the gym.
2. Karen is painting her apartment this week.
3. This room is very large. (fact)
4. He has a headache right now. (stative)
5. It is raining really hard right now.
6. Where is John? He is working. (right now)
7. I am meeting my friend in a few minutes.
8. My family comes to San Diego often.

SUMMARY

Present simple and present continuous (affirmative)

Complete the table with the present simple and present continuous affirmative form of fix.

Present simple	Present continuous
Regular activities	At the moment
I fix computers.	I'm fixing a computer.
You fix computers.	You're fixing a computer.
She fixes computers.	She's fixing a computer.
We fix computers.	We're fixing a computer.
They fix computers.	They're fixing a computer.

SUMMARY

Present simple and present continuous (negative)

Complete the table with the present simple and present continuous negative form of fix.

Present simple	Present continuous
Regular activities	At the moment
I don't fix cars.	I'm not fixing a car.
You don't fix cars.	You aren't fixing a car.
She doesn't fix cars.	She isn't fixing a car.
We don't fix cars.	We aren't fixing a car.
They don't fix cars.	They aren't fixing a car.

SUMMARY

Present simple and present continuous (questions)

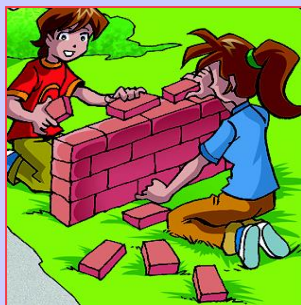
Complete the table with the present simple and present continuous question form of build.

Present simple	Present continuous
Regular activities	At the moment
Do I build houses?	Am I building a house?
Do you build houses?	Are you building a house?
Does she build houses?	Is she building a house?
Do we build houses?	Are we building a house?
Do they build houses?	Are they building a house?

MORE PRACTICE

Present simple and present continuous

Complete the sentence with the present continuous form of the verb in brackets.



Fernando and Amelia are building a wall.
(build)

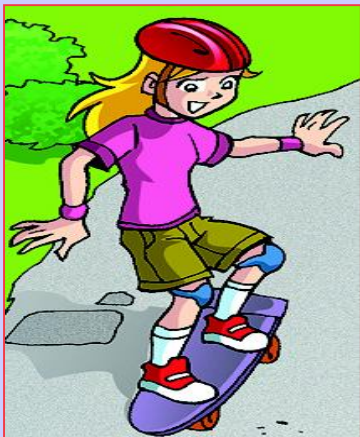


David and Hong aren't playing basketball.
(not play)

They 're playing football. (play)

MORE PRACTICE

Present simple and present continuous



Sue is skateboarding.
(skateboard)

She isn't flying a plane. (not fly)



Devon is cooking food for a barbecue.
(cook)

H) Supply PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE in the blanks:

1. He (teach) his son to ride a bike.
2. A: Why Ann (wear) her new dress?
B: Because she (have) a party tonight.
3. Cindy usually does the shopping, but I (do) it today because she is ill.
4. She (not / work), she (swim) in the river.
5. A: Tom (clean) his shoes now?
B: No, he He (tidy) his room.
A: Where is his brother?
B: He is in the garden, he (water) the flowers.

A) Read the paragraph and answer the questions:

Brian is a doctor. He looks after sick people. He usually gets up at 6.00 o'clock. Today he is late, it is 6.30 and he is still in bed. He usually goes to work by train but today he is driving to work. He arrives at work at 6.30 every morning but it is 7.30 now and he is still driving.

It's 12.00 o'clock now. He always has his lunch at 12.00 but today he isn't having lunch at 12.00, he is looking after his sick patients. It is half past seven now, Brian is watching TV. He usually watches TV at half past seven because his favorite programme starts at half past seven. Brian has his dinner at 8.30 everyday and he is having dinner now.

It is 24.00 now Brian is going to bed. He always goes to bed at 24.00.

1. What does Brian do?
2. What time does he usually get up?
3. How does he usually go to work?
4. Why is he driving to work today?
5. What time does he arrive at work everyday?
6. When does he always have his lunch?
7. What is he doing at 12.00 today?
8. Why does he usually watch TV at 7.30?
9. What time does he go to bed?
10. What time is he going to bed now?

B) Fill in the blanks with PRESENT CONTINUOUS or SIMPLE PRESENT:

1. The children (play) outside now.
2. She usually (read) the newspaper in the morning.
3. I (do) my homework now.
4. I (eat) my dinner now.
5. (you / want) a pizza?
6. They (watch) TV now.
7. I (not / like) spaghetti.
8. The baby (sleep) now.
9. My mother usually (cook) dinner in the evening.
10. He (write) a letter to his pen-friend every month.
11. She (not / like) football.
12. Mary (listen) to music now.
13. Tom usually (drink) coffee, but he (drink) tea now.
14. We (go) to the disco tonight.
15. (he / go) to work by bus everyday.