



Present Forms

1st Year English Class
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Present Simple

We use the present simple:

- a) for permanent states, repeated actions and daily routines.

He **works** in a bank.

(permanent state)

He **takes** the train to work every morning.

(daily routine/repeated actions)



- b) for general truths and laws of nature.

The sun **sets** in the west.



- c) for timetables (planes, trains, etc.) and programmes.

The plane from Brussels **arrives** at 8:30.



- d) for sports commentaries, reviews and narration.

a) Peterson **overtakes** Williams and **wins** the race. (sports commentary)

b) Mike Dalton **plays** the part of Macbeth. (review)

c) Then the prince **gets** on his horse and quickly **rides** away. (narration)




- e) to give instructions or directions (instead of the imperative).

You **sprinkle** some cheese on the pizza and then you **bake** it. (Instead of: **Sprinkle** some cheese on the pizza ...)



Time expressions used with Present Simple

The present simple is used with the following time expressions: *usually, often, always, etc., every day/ week/month/year, in the morning/afternoon/ evening, at night, at the weekend, on Mondays, etc.*



Present Continuous

We use the present continuous:

- a) for actions taking place now, at the moment of speaking.

He **is giving** the baby a bath at the moment.



- b) for temporary actions; that is actions that are going on around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.

I'm looking for a new job these days.

(He is not looking for a job at the moment of speaking.)



- c) with adverbs such as: always, constantly, continually, etc. for actions which happen very often, usually to express annoyance, irritation or anger.

a) **I'm always meeting** Sara when I go shopping.
(action which happens very often)

b) **You're constantly interrupting** me when I'm talking. (expressing annoyance/irritation)



- d) for actions that we have already arranged to do in the near future, especially when the time and place have been decided.

They're moving into their new house next week. (The time has been decided.)




- e) for changing or developing situations.

*More and more species **are becoming** extinct.*



Time expressions used with Present Continuous

The present continuous is used with the following time expressions: *now, at the moment, at present, these days, still, nowadays, today, tonight, etc.*



Present Perfect Simple

We use the present perfect:

- a) for an action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with state verbs such as *be*, *have*, *like*, *know*, etc. In this case, we often use *for* and *since*.

*Rachel **has had** the dog **for** three years. (She got the dog three years ago and she still has it.)*



- b) for an action which has recently finished and whose result is visible in the present.

*She **has just washed** her hair. (She has now wrapped her hair in a towel, so the action has finished.)*



- c) for an action which happened at an unstated time in the past. The exact time is not mentioned because it is either unknown or unimportant. The emphasis is placed on the action.

*The Taylors **have bought** a sailing boat. (The exact time is unknown or unimportant. What is important is the fact that they now own a sailing boat.)*



- d) for an action which has happened within a specific time period which is not over at the moment of speaking. We often use words and expressions such as *today, this morning/evening/week/month, etc.*

*She **has taken** fifteen pictures today. (The time period - today - is not over yet. She may take more pictures.)*



***BUT:** She **took** twenty pictures yesterday.
(The time period - yesterday - is over.)*


Note: We use the present perfect to announce a piece of news and the past simple or past continuous to give more details about it.

*The police **have** finally **arrested** Peter Duncan. He **was trying** to leave the country when they **caught** him.*



Time expressions used with Present Perfect Simple

The present perfect is used with the following time expressions: *for, since, already, yet, always, just, ever, never, so far, today, this week/month, etc., how long, lately, recently, still (in negations), etc.*



Present Perfect Continuous

We use the present perfect continuous:

- a) to put emphasis on the duration of an action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with time expressions such as *for*, *since*, *all morning/day/year*, etc.

Sam **has been talking** on the phone **for** half an hour.
(He began talking on the phone half an hour ago and he is still talking.)



- b) for an action which started in the past and lasted for some time. The action may have finished or may still be going on. The result of the action is visible in the present.

Her feet hurt. She **has been walking** all morning.
(The result of the action is visible in the present - her feet hurt.)



c) to express anger, irritation or annoyance.



(The speaker is irritated.)


Note: With the verbs *live*, *work*, *teach* and *feel* (= have a particular emotion) we can use the present perfect or present perfect continuous with no difference in meaning.


We have lived/have been living here for twenty years.



Time expressions used with Present Perfect Continuous

The present perfect continuous is used with the following time expressions: *for, since, how long, lately, recently.*






Note: We use the present perfect to put emphasis on number and the present perfect continuous to put emphasis on duration.

Compare the examples:

*e.g. I've **typed** four reports so far.*

*I've **been typing** reports all morning.*



Adverbs of Frequency

- ◆ Adverbs of frequency (*always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom/rarely, never, etc.*) come before the main verb (*read, work, etc.*) but after the verb *to be*, auxiliary verbs (*do, have, etc.*) or modal verbs (*can, should, etc.*). Adverbs of frequency go before the auxiliary verbs in short answers.

e.g. Susan **often** goes skiing at the weekend.

Kim **is sometimes** rude to other people.

You **can always** call me if you need help.

'Do you help your mother with the housework?'

'Yes, I **usually** do.'

- ◆ Expressions such as *every day, once/twice a week/month, etc., most mornings/evenings, etc.* go at the beginning or the end of a sentence. *Usually, often, sometimes, normally* and *occasionally* can go at the beginning or the end of a sentence for more emphasis.

e.g. We go on holiday **twice a year**.

Usually, I finish work at five.

I feel bored **sometimes**.

- ◆ The adverbs *never, seldom* and *rarely* have a negative meaning and are never used with the word *not*.

e.g. I **rarely** go to bed late. (NOT: ~~I rarely don't go...~~)

State Verbs


State Verbs are verbs which describe a state rather than an action and therefore do not normally have continuous tenses. These include:

- a) verbs which express likes and dislikes: *like, love, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer, adore, etc.* e.g. *I love chocolate ice cream.*
- b) verbs of the senses: *see, hear, smell, taste, feel, look, sound.* We often use *can* or *could* with these verbs when we refer to what we see, hear, etc. at the moment of speaking. e.g. *Jim must be at home. I can see his car parked outside.*
- c) verbs of perception: *know, believe, understand, realise, remember, forget, notice, recognise, think, seem, see (=understand), expect (=think), etc.* e.g. *I expect they will be late.*
- d) some other verbs such as *be, contain, include, belong, fit, need, matter, cost, mean, own, want, owe, have (=possess), require, weigh, wish, keep (=continue), etc.* e.g. *My uncle owns a hotel.*

Some of the above verbs are used in continuous tenses when they describe actions and not states. Study the following examples:

- 1 I **think** he's lying. (= believe)
I'm **thinking** about the plan. (= am considering)
- 2 The food **tastes** delicious. (= has a delicious flavour)
He **is tasting** the food. (= is testing the flavour of)
- 3 I can **see** some people. (= perceive with my eyes)
I **see** what you mean. (= understand)
I'm **seeing** my doctor tomorrow. (= am meeting)
- 4 It **looks** as if they've finished the job. (= appears)
Mike **is looking** out of the window. (is directing his eyes)

- 5 This perfume **smells** nice. (= has a nice smell)
He **is smelling** the milk. (= is sniffing)
- 6 The baby's hair **feels** like silk. (= has the texture of)
She **is feeling** the baby's forehead. (= is touching)
- 7 Bob **has** a Porsche. (= possesses)
He's **having a shower** at the moment. (= is taking a shower)
- 8 The chicken **weighs** 2 kilos. (= has a weight of)
The butcher **is weighing** the meat. (= is measuring how heavy it is)
- 9 This dress **fits** you perfectly. (= it is the right size)
We **are fitting** new locks. (= are putting in)
- 10 He **appears** to be nervous. (= seems)
He **is appearing** in a new play. (= is taking part)
- 11 He **is** a rude person. (= character - permanent state)
He **is being** rude. (= behaviour - temporary situation, usually with adjectives such as *careful*, *silly*, *(im)polite*, *lazy*, etc.)




Note: a) The verb *enjoy* can be used in continuous tenses to express specific preference.

e.g. I'm enjoying this party a lot. (specific preference)

BUT: *I enjoy going to parties. (I enjoy parties in general.)*

b) The verbs *look* (when we refer to a person's appearance), *feel* (= experience a particular emotion), *hurt* and *ache* can be used in either the continuous or simple tenses with no difference in meaning.

e.g. You look/are looking great today.



Have gone (to) / Have been (to)



- ◆ She **has gone to** the office. (This means she has not come back yet. She is still at the office.)
- ◆ He **has been to** Rome twice. (This means that he has visited Rome twice; he is not there now. He has come back.)

Note: In this case **been** is used as the past participle of the verb to go.