UNIT 1 Present Forms

Present Simple

FORM

I / You work. — He / She / It works.
Do you work? — Does he work? Yes, I do./No, he doesn't.

I do not (don't) work. — He does not (doesn't) work.

Present Continuous

FORM

I am ('m) / You are ('re) / He is ('s) working.

Are you / Is he working? Yes, I am./No, he isn't.

I am ('m) not / He is not (isn't) / They are not (aren't) working.

Use

The present simple is used:

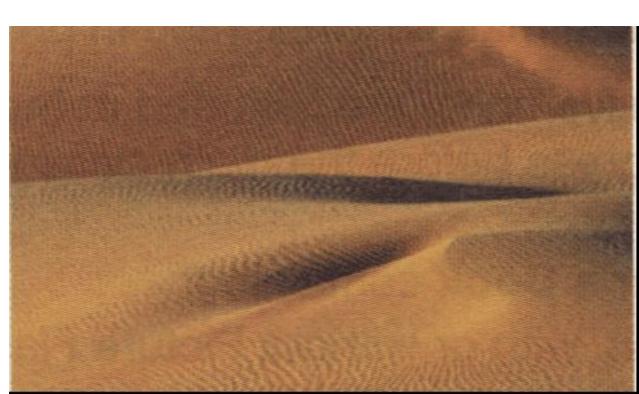
♦ for permanent states, repeated actions and daily routines.

He works at a hotel.
(permanent state)
He lays the tables and
serves dinner every day.
(daily routine/repeated
actions)



• for general truths and laws of nature.

It rarely **rains** in the desert.



♦ for timetables (trains, planes, etc.) and programmes.

The plane to London takes off at 6:50 am.



- for sports commentaries, reviews and narration.
 - a) Hill kicks the ball and passes it to Dawson. (sports commentary)
 - b) Laura Hunt acts superbly in the film. (review)
 - c) So, the prince **tells** her ... (narration)



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

The present continuous is used:

♦ for actions taking place now, at the moment of speaking, or for temporary actions; that is actions that are going on around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.

Helen is working hard these days. Right now she's reading a newspaper. (She is not working at the moment of speaking.)



with always when we want to express our irritation at actions which happen too often.

You're always
forgetting to pay
the bills.



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

Melanie is getting married at 3 this afternoon. (The time and the place for the wedding ceremony have been decided.)



More and more forests are disappearing because of fires.



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



Look at Appendix 1 and put the following verbs into the correct box in the 3rd person singular.

scratch, say, try, set, play, do, stop, miss, stay, fry, drive, fix, cry, freeze, teach, pray, crash, fly, type

+s	sets
ss, sh, ch, x, o, + es	scratches
vowel + y + s	says
consonant + x → ies	tries



Look at Appendix 1, add -ing to the following verbs and put them into the correct box.

draw, lie, dive, put, drink, run, tie, write, type, throw, die, apply, cancel, sit

+ ing	drawing
je → y + ing	lying
>e → ing	diving
double consonant + ing	putting



Expand the following into sentences in order to make true statements with doesn't or don't where necessary.

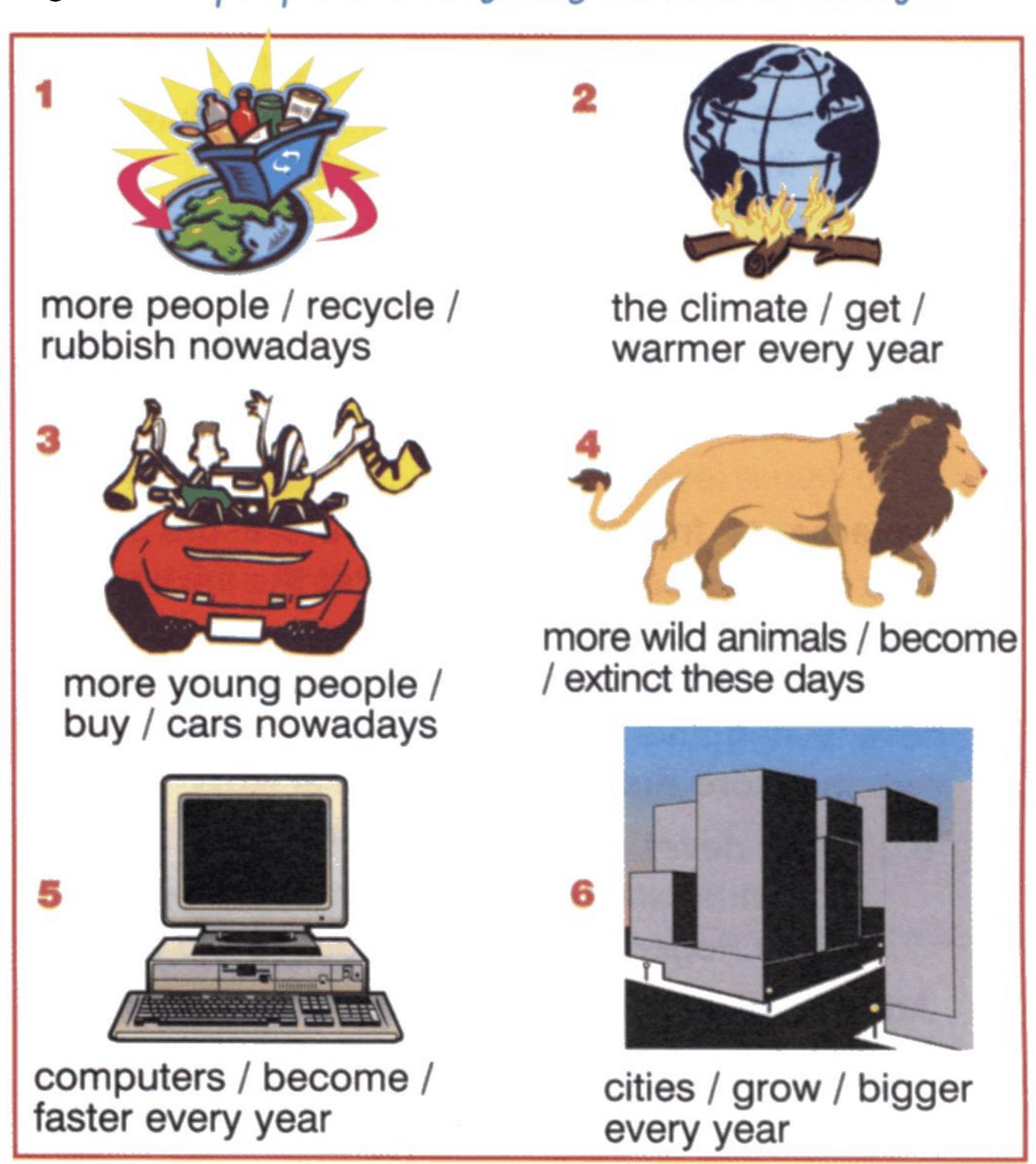
- 1 water / boil / at 100°C.

 Water boils at 100°C.
- 2 rice / grow / on trees Rice doesn't grow on trees.
- 3 chicks / hatch / from eggs
- 4 kangaroos / live / in Spain
- 5 plants / need / water to grow
- 6 rain / fall / from clouds
- 7 astronauts / travel / in submarines
- 8 cows / lay / eggs
- 9 pandas / live / in Italy
- 10 elephants / eat / meat
- 11 fish / walk / on land
- 12 the sun / set / in the east
- 13 bees / give milk
- 14 caterpillars / turn / into butterflies
- 15 wool / come / from sheep



How is our world changing? Look at the pictures and the prompts and make sentences using the present continuous.

e.g. More people are recycling rubbish nowadays.





Read the following extracts and put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous. Then, say what use of these tenses each extract shows.

A	These days, it seems everything 1) is changing (change). Cities 2)
	more about the way things work.
B	Water 1)
C	This film 1)
D	Rogers 1)

Adverbs of Frequency

- ◆ The present simple is often used with adverbs of frequency (always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom/rarely, never, etc.) to show how often something happens. The adverbs of frequency answer the question How often...?.
 - e.g. How often do you go to bed early?

 I always/ usually go to bed early.

100%	75%	50%	25%	10%	0%
always	usually	often	sometimes	rarely/	never
				seldom	27

- ◆ Adverbs of frequency come before the main verb (*listen, watch,* etc.), but after the verb to be and auxiliary or modal verbs, such as do, can, must, etc. The adverbs rarely, seldom and never have a negative meaning and are never used with the word not.
 - e.g. Emily never watches horror films.
 You must always behave yourself at school.
 Does Roger often call you during the week?

Adverbs of frequency always go before the auxiliary verb in short answers.

e.g. Do you buy expensive clothes? No, I never do.



In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

- SA: Do you often go to the cinema?
- SB: Yes, I do. I usually go to the cinema at the weekend.
 - 1 go to the cinema
- 4 listen to the radio
- 2 buy magazines
- 5 phone your friends
- 3 watch quiz shows
- 6 play computer games



Put the adverbs of frequency in the correct position.

- 1 A: Do you often go to parties, Keith?
 - B: Yes, I go to parties at the weekend. (often) Yes, I often go to parties at the weekend.
- 2 A: Do you wear sports clothes at work?
 - B: No, I do. (never)
- 3 A: Jack is late again!
 - B: I know. He arrives on time. (never)
- 4 A: When do you go shopping?
 - B: I do my shopping on Fridays. (usually)
- 5 A: Does your boss often ask you to work overtime?
 - B: No, he does. (seldom)
- 6 A: You should listen to your parents' advice. (always)
 - B: That's exactly what I do.



Read about Celine's daily routine and make sentences, as in the example. Then, talk about your daily routine using adverbs of frequency.

St: Celine usually wakes up at 7 in the morning.

S2: She always drives to work in the morning.



morning

- usually wake up at 7
- always drive to work
- normally get to work
 by 9

evening

- usually have dinner at 6
- often watch TV
- never go to bed before 11

S1: I always wake up at 7:30 in the morning.

S2: I usually go to school on foot in the morning.

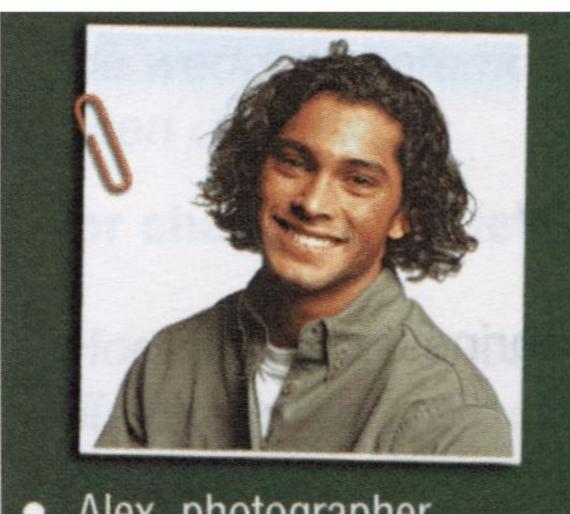


Michael McIntosh, is a politician. Read the text and put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

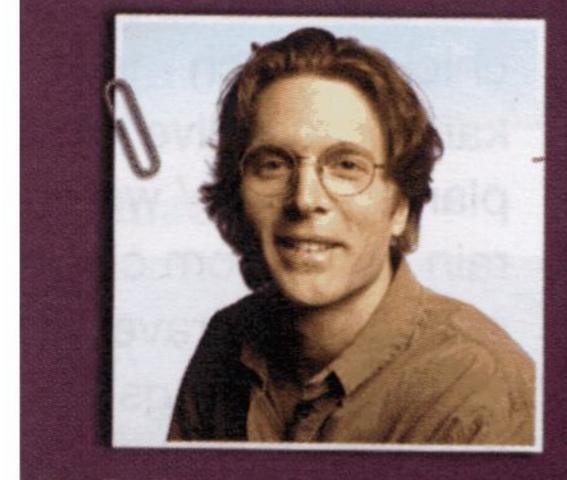


Read the information about the people and make sentences, as in the example.

S1: Alex is a photographer. S2: He works from 9 to 5.



- Alex, photographer
- work from 9 to 5
- have lunch at studio
- work outdoors at the moment
- fly to Milan on Saturday



- Philip, teacher
- work from 9 to 6
- have lunch at school
- practise a new play with students at the moment
- get married next month



State Verbs

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

- verbs which express likes and dislikes: like, love, hate, dislike, enjoy, prefer, etc. e.g. Cathy likes romantic films.
- verbs of perception: believe, know, notice, remember, forget, recognise, understand, realise, seem, think, etc. e.g. / don't believe a word he's saying.
- verbs of the senses: see, hear, feel, taste, look, smell, 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. The soup **tastes** delicious.

 John must be in the attic. I **can hear** his footsteps.
- some other verbs: be, contain, fit, include, matter, need, belong, cost, owe, mean, own, appear, want, have (=possess), etc.
 - e.g. This book is mine. It belongs to me.

Some state verbs have continuous tenses, but there is a difference in meaning.
Study the following examples:

- 1) I think she's Italian. (=believe)
 I'm thinking about my holiday.
 (=am considering)
- 2) The soup tastes awful. (=has an awful flavour)
 She's tasting the soup. (=is testing the flavour of)
- 3) I can see an aeroplane in the sky. (=perceive with my eyes)
 I'm seeing Jill tonight. (=am meeting)
- 4) Susan looks tired. (=appears)
 Susan is looking at some photos. (=is studying)
- 5) The room smells of perfume. (=has the smell)
 The cat is smelling its food. (=is sniffing)
- 6) This towel feels soft. (=has a soft texture)

 Jill is feeling her son's forehead. (=is touching)
- 7) He is selfish. (character permanent state)
 He is being selfish. (behaviour temporary situation)
- 8) He has a sports car. (=possesses)
 He's having lunch now. (=is eating idiom)

Some idioms with have include:

breakfast / lunch / dinner, etc.
a bath / shower / swim / party, etc.
have a(n) accident / experience / dream, etc.
a baby
difficulty / fun / trouble, etc.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

	A:	Do you know (you/know) that man over there?
	B:	Actually, I do. He's Muriel's husband.
2	A:	Are you doing anything tomorrow evening?
	B:	Yes. I (see) Jack at
		nine o'clock.
3	A:	I (see) you're feeling better.
		Yes, I am, thank you.
1		What's that noise?
•		The people next door (have)
	D.	
_	Α.	a party.
•		Graham (have) a new computer.
		I know. I've already seen it.
5	A:	This dress (not/fit) me
		any more.
		Why don't you buy a new one?
7	A:	Your perfume (smell) nice.
		What is it?
	B:	It's a new perfume called Sunshine.
8	A:	What is Jane doing?
	B:	She (smell) the flowers in
		the garden.
9	A:	What (you/look) at?
		Some photos I took during my holidays. They
		aren't very good, though.
0	A :	You (look) very pretty today.
		Thank you. I've just had my hair cut.
1		I (think) we're being followed.
•		Don't be silly! It's just your imagination.
2		Is anything wrong?
		No. I (just/think) about the
	U.	
2	Λ.	party tonight. This fabric
J		This fabric (feel) like silk.
•		It is silk, and it was very expensive.
4		What are you doing?
	B:	I (feel) the radiator to see if
	•	it's getting warm.
5		She (be) generous, isn't she?
		Yes, she has never been a mean person.
6	A:	He(be) very quiet today,
		isn't he?
	B:	Yes, I think he has some problems.
7	A:	Would you like some cherries?
	B:	Yes, please. I (love) cherries.
		They're my favourite fruit.
8	A:	I'm sorry, but I
		(not understand) what you mean.
	B:	Shall I explain it again?
9		The children are making lots of noise today.
		I know, but they (have) fun.
0		This cake (taste) awful.
•		I think I forgot to put the sugar in it!
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