

## Present simple

- permanent situations or states  
*She **works** in a bank.*
- repeated/habitual actions (especially with frequency adverbs: *often, usually, always*, etc)  
*He **always goes** to bed at 11 o'clock.* (Here "always" means every day.)
- general truths or laws of nature  
*The sun **rises** in the east.*
- reviews/sports commentaries/dramatic narrative  
*Smythe **serves** the ball and Lanyon **misses** it...*
- timetables/programmes (future reference)  
*The train **leaves** at 8.00.*
- in exclamatory sentences  
*There **goes** the bus!*



## Time expressions

*every day/week/month/year, usually, sometimes, always, rarely, never, often, in the morning/evening/afternoon, at night, on Mondays, etc*

## Present continuous

- actions happening at or around the moment of speaking  
*The sun **is shining** now.*  
*He **is studying** for the exams.*
- temporary situations  
*He **is spending** the week with his mother.*
- changing or developing situations  
*She **is getting** better and better at playing the piano.*
- frequently repeated actions with *always, constantly, continually*, expressing annoyance or criticism  
*He's **always getting** into trouble.* (Here "always" means constantly.)
- fixed arrangements in the near future  
*I'm **going** to the theatre this evening.*



## Time expressions

*now, at the moment, at present, nowadays, today, tonight, always, still, etc*

## Present perfect

- action that started in the past and continues to the present  
*He **has been** here since May.*
- recently completed actions  
*She **has dyed** her hair black.* (The action is complete – her hair is now dyed black – evidence in the present)
- complete past actions connected to the present with stated or unstated time reference  
*He **has bought** a house.* (Now he owns a house.)  
*He **has just returned** from Paris.* (stated time reference)
- personal experiences/changes which have happened  
*I **have lost** weight recently.*
- emphasis on number  
*He **has seen** three films this week.*  
*She **has had** four cups of coffee since she woke up.*

## Present perfect continuous

- actions that started in the past and continue to the present  
*She **has been doing** her homework for an hour.* (She started an hour ago and she's still doing it.)
- actions that have just finished with visible results or effects in the present  
*He **has been running**. That's why he's out of breath.*
- to express anger, irritation, annoyance, explanation or criticism  
*She **has been using** my laptop!* (annoyance)
- to put emphasis on duration, usually with *for, since* or *how long*  
*He **has been feeling** unwell for days.*



## Time expressions

*just, ever, never, already, yet* (negations & questions), *always, how long, so far, recently, since* (= from a starting point in the past), *for* (= over a period of time), *today, this week/month*, etc  
**For** and **since** are usually used with Present perfect continuous to emphasise the duration of an action.

**Adverbs of frequency** (*always, sometimes, usually, often*, etc) go before the main verb, but after the verb *to be*.

**have been to**: have gone somewhere and come back

**have gone to/been in**: have gone somewhere, but not back yet

## Stative verbs

Stative verbs express a permanent state rather than an action and are not used in the continuous forms. These are: **verbs of the senses** used to express involuntary actions (*feel, hear, see, smell, taste, etc.*), **verbs of feelings and emotions** (*adore, detest, dislike, enjoy, forgive, hate, like, etc.*), **verbs of opinion** (*agree, believe, suppose, understand, etc.*) and **other verbs** (*belong, concern, depend, know, mean, own, possess, need, prefer, want, etc.*).  
*I see someone coming. She hates pop music. I don't agree with you. He knows a lot about computers.*

Some **stative verbs** (*be, love, see, smell, taste, think, etc.*) have continuous forms, but there is a difference in meaning.

*feel* and *hurt* can be used in either continuous or simple forms.

*She feels/is feeling better.*

*Look, watch* and *listen* express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms.

*He is listening to some records.*

State	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>see</b> them coming towards us. (= I have the ability)</li> <li>These flowers <b>smell</b> nice. (= they have a nice smell)</li> <li>This soup <b>tastes</b> delicious. (= its flavour is good)</li> <li>It <b>feels</b> like velvet. (= it has the texture of)</li> <li>He <b>has</b> a house. (= he possesses)</li> <li><b>Do you like</b> his new car? (= Is it nice?)</li> <li>I <b>think</b> he has left. (= I suppose, I believe)</li> <li>Ann <b>is</b> polite. (= her character is)</li> <li>It <b>looks</b> as if it's going to snow. (= it appears)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She's <b>seeing</b> her doctor today. (= she's visiting)</li> <li>Why <b>are you smelling</b> the food? Has it gone off? (= why are you checking the smell of)</li> <li>She's <b>tasting</b> the soup. (= she's testing the flavour)</li> <li>He's <b>feeling</b> the cloth. (= he's touching the cloth)</li> <li>We're <b>having</b> a nice time. (= we're enjoying ourselves)</li> <li>How <b>are they liking</b> the party? (= are they enjoying)</li> <li>I'm <b>thinking</b> about his suggestion. (= I'm considering)</li> <li>Tom <b>is being</b> very impolite. (= he is behaving impolitely)</li> <li>They <b>are looking</b> at the statue. (= they're viewing it)</li> </ul>

## 1 Put the verbs in brackets into the *Present simple* or the *Present continuous*.

- A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) there's a great film on at the cinema tonight. Would you like to go?  
B: No, I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the dentist about my toothache.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you/think) about going on a picnic this afternoon?  
B: Not really. I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) I need to study.
- A: Is John OK? He \_\_\_\_\_ (look) very red in the face.  
B: Yes, I know. I \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for the doctor's telephone number now.
- A: How \_\_\_\_\_ (you/like) your stay in Budapest?  
B: I am really \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) myself. I particularly \_\_\_\_\_ (like) the Hungarian food.
- A: Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you/taste) the stew?  
B: I think you \_\_\_\_\_ (need) to add some spices; it \_\_\_\_\_ (taste) a bit bland.
- A: Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you/feel) the radiator, Dad?  
B: I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/think) it's working; it \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) very cold in here.
- A: Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (be) usually a very quiet boy.  
B: Yes, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very noisy today.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you/have) a car?  
B: Yes, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) some problems with it, so it's at the garage.
- A: Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you/smell) the roses?  
B: They always \_\_\_\_\_ (smell) so wonderful at this time of year.

## 2 Choose the correct option.

- We **have been walking/have walked** since 3:00.
- How long **has she spoken/has she been speaking** to that customer?
- Paul **has bought/has been buying** three shirts.
- They **haven't explored/haven't been exploring** the market all day.
- Have you been knowing/Have you known** Alex since you started school?

## 3 Fill in *has/have been to/in, has/have gone to*.

- Bertha's not here. She \_\_\_\_\_ the library.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ Madrid, but I only spent a few days there.
- "How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ Birmingham?" "For nearly two years."
- Tom is alone because his parents \_\_\_\_\_ the seaside.
- Julia \_\_\_\_\_ the supermarket – she'll be back in about an hour.

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#### 4 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present tenses.

New message

Hi John,  
 First of all, sorry I 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (not/write) for so long, but I was on holiday. 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (you/get) your exam results yet? I'm sure you 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) them all since you always 4) \_\_\_\_\_ (study) so hard. I 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for mine at the moment, and I 6) \_\_\_\_\_ (try) not to worry! Well, I 7) \_\_\_\_\_ (write) from my new flat. Yes, I 8) \_\_\_\_\_ (move) house! Now, we 9) \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) and 10) \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the place to make it look nice. When it's finished, I want to have a party and, because I 11) \_\_\_\_\_ (not/see) you for weeks, I 12) \_\_\_\_\_ (want) you to come. Write soon and let me know if I'll see you there.  
 Talk soon,  
 Mary

Send Save Cancel

#### 5 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present tenses.

- Alan \_\_\_\_\_ (fly) to Barcelona tonight. He \_\_\_\_\_ (already/pack) his suitcase, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/call) a taxi yet. His plane \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) at 8 pm.
- Ann and Sally \_\_\_\_\_ (be) flatmates. They sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ (argue) because Sally \_\_\_\_\_ (always/make) a mess in the kitchen.
- "Look over there! It's John Cooper."  
 "Oh yes! But he \_\_\_\_\_ (look) so different! He \_\_\_\_\_ (put on) at least 15 kilos, and I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) he \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) a police uniform."
- Ever since the accident, Susan \_\_\_\_\_ (be) afraid to drive. Next week, she \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a psychologist who \_\_\_\_\_ (specialise) in that sort of problem.
- "What a great match! Johnson \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the ball to Green, who \_\_\_\_\_ (shoot) and \_\_\_\_\_ (score)!"
- "What on earth \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do)? Your clothes are all dirty!" "Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in the garden all day. Look! I \_\_\_\_\_ (already/plant) a lot of flowers. I \_\_\_\_\_ (plan) to cut the grass now."

#### 6 Choose the correct option.

- James \_\_\_\_\_ to my email yet. Maybe he's on holiday.  
 A doesn't reply      B isn't replying  
 C hasn't replied
- Mike always \_\_\_\_\_ up early on weekdays.  
 A gets      B is getting      C has got
- Your French \_\_\_\_\_ all the time, Sally.  
 A improves      B is improving  
 C has improved
- I \_\_\_\_\_ a cake; that's why the kitchen is such a mess.  
 A make      B making  
 C have been making
- The plane \_\_\_\_\_ at 9:30 tomorrow morning.  
 A arrives      B is arriving      C has arrived
- Alice \_\_\_\_\_ for a job at the moment.  
 A looks      B is looking      C has looked
- This soup \_\_\_\_\_ delicious. What did you put in it?  
 A smells      B is smelling      C has smelt
- Their baby \_\_\_\_\_ to walk.  
 A just starts      B has just started  
 C has just been starting
- We \_\_\_\_\_ a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?  
 A have      B are having      C have had
- I \_\_\_\_\_ for an hour and the bus still hasn't come.  
 A am waiting      B have waited  
 C have been waiting
- I \_\_\_\_\_ this film three times already.  
 A see      B am seeing      C have seen
- Melanie \_\_\_\_\_ at her father's shop every day this week.  
 A works      B is working      C has worked
- I can't get in the house. I \_\_\_\_\_ my keys.  
 A lose      B am losing      C have lost
- There \_\_\_\_\_ Luke on his new bicycle!  
 A goes      B is going      C has gone
- I \_\_\_\_\_ the book you lent me. I'm really enjoying it.  
 A read      B have read  
 C have been reading
- \_\_\_\_\_ you ever been to Lyon?  
 A Do      B Are      C Have