

# Present continuous and present simple

## Explanations

**Present continuous** To talk about things happening at the moment, use the present continuous.

*Jim is **watching** television at the moment.*

**Present simple** To talk about habits and routines use the present simple.

- Things we do often, every day, every week, etc.
- Things that always happen.

*I **arrive** at school at 8.30.  
The first lesson **starts** at 8.45.  
The lesson **finishes** at 9.30.*



*Jim is watching TV.*

### Careful!

*Joe **lives** in New York. New York is his home. He lives there all the time.  
We **are living** near the station at the moment. We want to move to another house soon.*

- Verbs usually used with the present simple:
 

cost	<i>This bike costs £200.</i>	
like	<i>Anna likes rap music.</i>	
know	<i>Do you know the answer?</i>	
understand	<i>I don't understand this.</i>	
believe	<i>Do you believe me?</i>	
- Some verbs have one meaning in the simple form, but a different meaning in the continuous form.
 

<i>Do you <b>have</b> a bike?</i>	= Do you own a bike?	(in general)
<i>I'm <b>having</b> a great time!</i>	= It's a great party!	(at the moment)
<i>I <b>think</b> this film is great!</i>	= I like this film a lot.	(in general)
<i>Quiet! I'm <b>thinking</b>.</i>	= I'm doing a difficult exercise.	(at the moment)

## Practice

### 1 Choose the most suitable sentence or question.

- a) 1 I wash my hair.  
2 I'm washing my hair. ✓
- b) 1 Do you know the answer?  
2 Are you knowing the answer?
- c) 1 Do you wait for the school bus? You're in the wrong place!  
2 Are you waiting for the school bus? You're in the wrong place!
- d) 1 That bike costs £350.  
2 That bike is costing £350.
- e) 1 Do you understand?  
2 Are you understanding?
- f) 1 I do my homework.  
2 I'm doing my homework.

### 2 Complete each sentence. Use the words in brackets. Use present simple or present continuous.

- a) Richard (always, get up) ..... *always gets up* ..... before 7.00.
- b) Hurry up! The bus (wait) ..... for us!
- c) Where (we, go) ..... ? This is the wrong road!
- d) My friends (not believe) ..... my story.
- e) Please be quiet! I (read) ..... a very interesting book.
- f) (like, Susan) ..... horror films?

### 3 Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each space.

- a) 'Someone *B* ..... for you outside.' 'Who is it?'  
A) waits B) is waiting C) waiting
- b) 'What ..... of this book?' 'I think it's fantastic!'  
A) do you think B) is you think C) you do think
- c) ..... in ghosts?  
A) Are you believe B) Are you believing C) Do you believe
- d) Kate is busy. She ..... for a test.  
A) is study B) is studying C) is studies
- e) ..... a great time at the moment!  
A) We are have B) We're have C) We're having
- f) Tina usually ..... at 7.00.  
A) get up B) is getting up C) gets up

# Consolidation 1

**1 Correct each sentence or question.**

- a) I doesn't likes this film. *don't like* .....
- b) What do you wants? .....
- c) Jim walk sometimes to school. ....
- d) When the lesson begins? .....
- e) I don't gets up early on Saturdays. ....
- f) Tina not like computer games. ....
- g) Figen watchs television every night. ....

**2 Put one word in each space. Contractions are one word.**

- a) What ..... *do* ..... you usually eat for lunch?
- b) George and Terry ..... speak Portuguese. They speak English.
- c) It's 9.30 and the children ..... sitting at their desks.
- d) Ken ..... like tea. In fact, he hates it.
- e) When it rains, ..... you take an umbrella?
- f) What ..... it say on the board? I can't see from here.

**3 Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each space.**

- a) What time *C* to bed?  
A) usually do you go    B) do usually you go    C) do you usually go
- b) Every day, Frank ..... to work.  
A) goes    B) is going    C) go
- c) Stop it! ..... it!  
A) I'm not liking    B) I don't like    C) I not like
- d) What ..... ? Is it an orange?  
A) you are eating    B) are you eating    C) do you eat
- e) Yumiko feels ill, so she ..... basketball.  
A) doesn't play    B) isn't play    C) isn't playing
- f) Pay attention, Philip! ..... ?  
A) Do you listen    B) Is it listening    C) Are you listening
- g) Excuse me. .... to Manchester?  
A) This road goes    B) Does this road go    C) Is this road go

**4 Change each sentence. Use the words in brackets.**

- a) Jo goes to school by bus. (usually) ..... *Jo usually goes to school by bus.*
- b) I'm working hard. (not) .....
- c) Sara likes sport. (not) .....
- d) I get up at 6.30. (always) .....
- e) We speak German. (not) .....
- f) Pierre goes to the beach. (often) .....
- g) George drinks beer. (never) .....
- h) We're having a good time. (not) .....

**5 Present simple or present continuous? Change the verb if it is wrong.**

- a) Are you having a motorbike?  
..... *Do you have a motorbike?*
- b) I'm staying in a hotel near the sea.  
.....
- c) I'd like to buy this coat. How much is it costing?  
.....
- d) What you doing?  
.....
- e) I'm usually getting up at 6.00.  
.....
- f) This book is difficult. I'm not understanding it.  
.....
- g) I watch a lot of TV every night.  
.....
- h) Excuse me. Are you knowing the way to the museum?  
.....

**Think about grammar! Are the sentences true or false?**

- a) When you talk about a habit or a routine, you use the present simple.
- b) The present continuous is for actions that do not finish.
- c) When the subject of the sentence is *he, she* or *it*, add *-s* or *-es*.