

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
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Module: English / 2nd Year

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Present Simple vs. Present Continuous

1) Present Simple

Form

• **Positive:**

- I/you/we/they + verb (base form)
- He/she/it + verb + **-s/-es**
- Example: I work, he works, she studies, it finishes.

• **Negative:**

- I/you/we/they + don't + verb (base form)
- He/she/it + doesn't + verb (base form)
- Example: I don't work, he doesn't work, she doesn't study, it doesn't finish.

• **Question:**

- Do + I/you/we/they + verb (base form)?
- Does + he/she/it + verb (base form)?
- Example: Do you work? Does he work? Does she study? Does it finish?

Use

• We use the present simple for:

- **Habits and routines:** things we do regularly.
 - Example: I get up at 7 am every day.
- **General truths:** facts that are always true.

- Example: The sun rises in the east.
- **Timetables and schedules:** fixed events.
 - Example: The train leaves at 10 am.

Adverbs and Expressions of Frequency

Adverbs of Frequency

- Adverbs of frequency tell us how often we do something. They usually go before the main verb, but after the verb "be."
- Example: I always get up early. She is often late.

Common Adverbs of Frequency

- always
- often
- sometimes
- usually
- hardly ever
- never

Expressions of Frequency

- Expressions of frequency tell us how often we do something using specific time periods.
They usually go at the end of a sentence.
- Example: I go to the gym twice a week. She reads a book every day.

Common Expressions of Frequency

- every day/week/month/year
- once/twice/three times a day/week/month/year
- on Mondays/Tuesdays/etc.

Additional Notes

- Remember to add -s or -es to the verb in the third person singular (he, she, it).
- Irregular verbs have special forms in the present simple (e.g., have - has, go - goes).

2) Present Continuous

Form

- **Positive:**

- I/you/we/they + am/are/are + verb + -ing
- He/she/it + is + verb + -ing
- Example: I am working, you are studying, he is reading, it is raining.

- **Negative:**

- I/you/we/they + am/are/are not + verb + -ing
- He/she/it + is not + verb + -ing
- Example: I am not working, you are not studying, he is not reading, it is not raining.

- **Question:**

- Am + I + verb + -ing?
- Are + you/we/they + verb + -ing?
- Is + he/she/it + verb + -ing?
- Example: Am I working? Are you studying? Is he reading? Is it raining?

Use

- We use the present continuous for:
 - **Actions happening now:** things that are happening at this very moment.
 - Example: I am writing an email right now.

- **Temporary actions:** things that are happening around now, but not permanently.
 - Example: I am living in London for a year.
- **Planned future actions:** things that are arranged to happen in the near future.
 - Example: We are meeting at 7 pm tomorrow.

Spelling Rules

- Add -ing to most verbs.
- If the verb ends in -e, drop the -e and add -ing (e.g., write - writing).
- If the verb ends in a consonant + vowel + consonant, double the final consonant and add -ing (e.g., run - running).

Present Simple or Present Continuous?

- We use the present simple for:
 - **Habits and routines:** things we do regularly.
 - Example: I get up at 7 am every day.
 - **General truths:** facts that are always true.
 - Example: The sun rises in the east.
 - **Timetables and schedules:** fixed events.
 - Example: The train leaves at 10 am.
- We use the present continuous for:
 - **Actions happening now:** things that are happening at this very moment.
 - Example: I am writing an email right now.
 - **Temporary actions:** things that are happening around now, but not permanently.
 - Example: I am living in London for a year.
 - **Planned future actions:** things that are arranged to happen in the near future.

- Example: We are meeting at 7 pm tomorrow.

Additional Notes

- Some verbs, called state verbs, are not normally used in the continuous form. These include:
 - like, love, hate, want, need, prefer
 - know, believe, understand, remember, forget
 - have, be, seem
- We can use some state verbs in the continuous form to emphasize a temporary situation or a change in attitude.