

Wider World

1.2 Present Simple, Present Continuous and state verbs

When do we use the Present Simple, the Present Continuous and state verbs?



We use the Present Simple for facts, permanent situations and routines. We use the Present Continuous for actions that are happening at or around the time of speaking. State verbs express opinions, preferences, mental states and perception.

The band **plays** in concerts around the world.

At the moment, they're **performing** in cities in the US.

I **love** their new song.



How many Present Simple verbs are in this text?
Which of them are about something happening now?
How many Present Continuous verbs are there?

I feel so hungry at the moment! I need a sandwich.
Do you want one too? I usually go to a dance class
once a week, but I'm practising for a dance show
every evening this week. I think that's making me
hungry all the time. Are you doing any interesting
new things these days?



A large, empty white speech bubble shape, intended for a response.

How do we make the Present Simple?

Present Simple			
I/You/We/They	sing / don't sing	in a band.	
He/She/It	uses / doesn't use	her tablet every day.	
Do	I/you/we/they	sing	in a band?
Does	he/she/it	use	her tablet every day?

We use the Present Simple for facts, permanent situations and routines.

Time expressions
every day/week/month/year
once/twice/three times a month
on Mondays/weekdays/holiday
always/usually/often/sometimes

How do we make the Present Continuous?

Present Continuous			
I	'm playing	a computer game right now.	
You/We/They	're recording	songs this week.	
He/She/It	's studying	in London this summer.	
Am	I	singing	well at the moment?
Are	you/we/they	listening	to any interesting bands these days?
Is	he/she/it	helping	you with the video?

We use the Present Continuous for actions that are happening at or around the time of speaking.

Time expressions
now/right now
at the moment
this morning/afternoon/year
these days

How do we make sentences with state verbs?

State verbs express opinions, preferences, mental states and perception.

They don't normally have a continuous form, even if they refer to the time of speaking.

State verbs

I **want** to see your mobile phone.

She **doesn't feel** very excited about the concert.

Do you **think** there's a problem with the computer?

Examples include:
*love, like, hate, prefer, want, need,
understand, think,
feel, hear, see.*



Practice Time

Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs below.

~~not like~~ ~~–dance–~~ ~~–go~~ ~~–make–~~ ~~prefer~~ ~~–show–~~ ~~think~~ ~~–wear–~~

I ¹ think one of the favourite pastimes for my generation is watching music videos on

YouTube. My favourite is the one by Ylvis called 'What does the fox say?'. Do you want to watch it?

Look, there's a fancy dress party and all the people ² are wearing animal costumes. They

³ are dancing in the forest and ⁴ are making crazy animal sounds! It's amazing, although a bit

old now! My sister ⁵ doesn't like music videos – she ⁶ prefers videos about shopping

where people ⁷ go shopping for clothes or cosmetics and then ⁸ show the

viewers what's in their shopping bags ... Not my kind of thing, really.