

# 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?



# How do we make the Present Simple?

Present Simple			
I/You/We/They	<b>sing / don't sing</b>	in a band.	
He/She/It	<b>uses / doesn't use</b>	her tablet every day.	
<b>Do</b>	I/you/we/they	<b>sing</b>	in a band?
<b>Does</b>	he/she/it	<b>use</b>	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 <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ one of the favourite pastimes for my generation is watching music videos on  
**think**

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 <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ animal costumes. They  
are wearing

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in the forest and <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ crazy animal sounds! It's amazing, although a bit  
are dancing are making

old now! My sister <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ music videos – she <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ videos about shopping  
doesn't like prefers

where people <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ shopping for clothes or cosmetics and then <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the  
go show

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