

Present Tenses in English

Continuous

The Present Simple Tense

+ V₁ (V**s/es**)

– don't/doesn't + V₁

? Do/Does + V₁

The Present Continuous Tense

+ am/is/are + V**ing**

- am not/isn't/aren't + V**ing**

? Am/Is/Are + V**ing**

We use these tenses for:

1. facts, or things that always happen.

Water **boils** at 100 C°.

2. routines and habits.

The birds **return** to the island every spring.

3. timetable events.

The Drama Club **meets** every Thursday at 7.30.

1. actions happening at the moment of speaking.

Sorry, **I'm working** now.

2. changing situations, with verbs like *become*, *get*, *grow*, *change*, *increase*.

The Earth **is becoming** warmer.

3. a future arrangement, with a time reference.

We're leaving tomorrow.

Present Simple and Present Continuous

The Present Simple Tense

+ V₁ (V**s/es**)

– don't/doesn't + V₁

? Do/Does + V₁

The Present Continuous Tense

+ am/is/are + V**ing**

- am not/Isn't/aren't + V**ing**

? Am/Is/Are + V**ing**

We use these tenses for:

4. plots of films, stories and plays.

At the party, Romeo sees Juliet and falls in love with her.

5. newspaper headlines to describe events.

Three die in plane crash.
MPs say no two green laws.

4. changing situations with expressions such as more and more.

More and more people are leaving the countryside.

5. criticizing actions that we feel irritating or annoying.

You are continually interrupting!
He's forever getting into trouble!

Present Simple and Present Continuous

The Present Simple Tense

+ V₁ (V_{s/es})

– don't/doesn't + V₁

? Do/Does + V₁

The Present Continuous Tense

+ am/is/are + V_{ing}

- am not/isn't/aren't + V_{ing}

? Am/Is/Are + V_{ing}

Time Markers :

Usually, often, always,
generally, sometimes,
occasionally, never,
seldom, rarely, from time
to time, hardly ever, every
day (month,...) , etc.

!!!(in expressions) Here
comes, there goes,
here lies.

Now, at the moment, still,
Look! Listen!, continually,
constantly, always , forever
(!!! to express irritation)

Present Simple and Present Continuous

Verbs with state and action meanings

state

Do

What do you do? (=what's your job?)

Be, have

This house is over 100 years old. Do you have a car?

Imagine, suppose, think, expect

I suppose this is Jim.
I imagine you feel the same.
What do you think? (=have an opinion)

action

What are you doing?
(=explain your actions)

He's being very silly! I'm having a great time here.

Ghosts! No, you're imagining things!
I'm thinking of changing jobs. (=considering)

Present Simple and Present Continuous

Verbs with state and action meanings

state

Hope, wonder

I hope you haven't been waiting long.

Enjoy, like, love

I enjoy/love going for long walks. (*often*)

Appear

Your visa appears to be out of date.

Look

This book looks interesting.
(=seem)

action

We're hoping to continue the talks next week. (*less definite*)

Are you enjoying the party?
I'm loving every minute of my new job! (*at the moment*)

Tom is appearing in Hamlet at the Grand Theatre.

Helen is looking well.
(=description of appearance)

Present Simple and Present Continuous

Verbs with state and action meanings

state

See, hear

I see/ hear you've had your hair cut. I don't hear any voices.

Feel, see, smell, taste

The room smells awful!

Ache, feel, hurt

My foot hurts. (*often*)
I feel sick.

Weigh, measure

This bag weighs more than 25 kilos.

action

Jane is seeing her doctor
(= *meet*) You are hearing
things (= *imagining*)

I'm smelling the flowers!
(= *an active choice*)

My foot is hurting. (*now*)
I'm feeling sick.

I'm weighing the parcel
before I post it. (*action choice*)

State verbs used in Present Simple

- **Thoughts and opinions:** think, understand, know, suppose, believe, want, remember, forget, depend, agree, imagine, realize, regret, mean, seem, etc.
- **Feelings:** like, love, hate, prefer, need, etc.
- **Senses:** see, hear, smell (**see charts above*)
- **Possession and existence:** belong, contain, have, include, weigh, consist of, depend on, deserve, own, possess, resemble, etc.

Underline the correct form:

- a) Scientists *do not understand/ are not understanding* everything about the universe.
- b) They disagree about some important facts. For example, *does it get/ is it getting* larger or smaller?
- c) Although they *don't agree/ are not agreeing* about everything, there are some facts about the universe which they are sure about.
- d) Take the planet Venus, for example. Here the temperature *reaches/ is reaching* over 400 °C.
- e) And another unusual fact about Venus is that a day there *lasts/ is lasting* longer than a year.

Underline the correct form:

- f) Many scientists still **search/ are still searching** for life in other parts of the universe.
- g) *Do they look/ Are they looking* for life on Venus?
- h) It *doesn't seem/ isn't seeming* to be the kind of place where life might exist.
- i) The atmosphere of Venus **consists/ is consisting** mainly of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- j) And it **has/ is having** an air pressure 90 times greater than that of Earth.

Open the brackets:

1. Somebody (**knock**) at the door.
Can you see who it is?
2. First you (**cook**) the onions
in a little oil until they are golden brown.
3. Carols (**forever lose**) his
temper with people! He must learn to calm down.
4. Here (**come**) the bus! You'd
better hurry!
5. 'Where's Jack?' 'He(**read**).....
the paper in the kitchen.'

Open the brackets:

6. Whenever I put up my hand, Harry **(kick)**
..... me under the desks.
7. I'm sorry, but I **(not understand)**
..... you.
8. Maria **(leave)** now, so
could you get her coat?
9. Come and eat your dinner. It **(get)**
..... cold.
10. I **(hear)** you did
really well in your exams. Well done!

Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous

The Present Perfect Tense

+ **have/has** + V₃ (**ed**)
- **haven't/hasn't** + V₃ (**ed**)
? **Have/Has** + V₃ (**ed**)

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense

+ **have/has been** + V_{ing}
- **haven't/hasn't been** + V_{ing}
? **Have/Has** + **been** V_{ing}

We use these tenses to:

1. describe an event in the past without a definite time.
Someone **has broken** a window in our classroom.

2. describe what someone has completed or achieved in a period of time.
I **ve** already **finished** my work.

1. talk about recent Continuing activities.
What **have** you **been doing** lately.

2. explain how recent continuing activities have caused the present situation.
My eyes ache. **I've been** **reading** all day.

Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous

The Present Perfect Tense

+ **have/has** + V₃ (**ed**)
- **haven't/hasn't** + V₃ (**ed**)
? **Have/Has** + V₃ (**ed**)

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense

+ **have/has been** + V_{ing}
- **haven't/hasn't been** + V_{ing}
? **Have/Has** + **been** V_{ing}

We use these tenses to:

3. describe how many things someone has done.

Scientists **have found** more than 30 unknown insects.

4. describe someone's experiences, what he or she has done in life.

I **ve travelled** by plane, but I **haven't flown** in a helicopter.

3. with **how long** questions.

How long **have** you **been studying** French? (*this is a continuing process*)

4. talk about recent continuing activities which will probably continue in the future.

This diagram shows how the climate **has been changing**.

Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous

The Present Perfect Tense

+ **have/has** + V₃ (**ed**)

- **haven't/hasn't** + V₃ (**ed**)

? **Have/Has** + V₃ (**ed**)

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense

+ **have/has been** + V_{ing}

- **haven't/hasn't been** + V_{ing}

? **Have/Has** + **been** V_{ing}

We use these tenses to:

5. describe changes, comparing past and present.
Our climate **has become** much warmer.

5. with time words lately, recently, all (day), every (morning), for, since.
I **'ve been studying** all morning.

With verbs that describe continuing states eg. **work**, **live**, there is little difference in meaning.

I **'ve worked** here for three years.

I **'ve been working** here for three years.

Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous

The Present Perfect Tense

+ have/has + V₃ (ed)

- haven't/hasn't + V₃ (ed)

? Have/Has + V₃ (ed)

The Present Perfect Continuous Tense

+ have/has been + Ving

- haven't/hasn't been + Ving

? Have/Has + been Ving

Time Markers:

Just, recently, ever, never,
already, since, for, yet,
not... yet, lately, so far, as a
result, etc.

For, since, all morning (day,
...), still, etc.

means the same as the first sentence. Use present perfect or continuous.

a) I came here at 3.00 and now it's 5.00.

I _____ two hours.

b) I haven't seen this film before.

This is _____ film.

c) Mark is asleep.

Mark _____ to bed.

d) I began work here in 1999.

I _____ since 1999.

e) Anna isn't here yet.

Anna _____ yet.

means the same as the first sentence. Use present perfect or continuous.

f) We don't know each other.

We _____ before.

g) There isn't any food left.

Someone _____ all the food.

h) We started waiting in this queue half an hour ago.

We _____ for half an hour.

i) It's a long time since I was last here.

I _____ a long time.

j) This is our seventh wedding anniversary.

We _____ seven years.