

Let's talk about:

Present Simple

Present Continuous

Present Perfect

Present Perfect  
Continuous



Read the postcard. Which of the verbs are in the *present perfect continuous*?

Dear Olga,

Greetings from Brazil! 1) I've been here since Monday and 2) I am having a fantastic time at the Rio Carnival. 3) I love it here. The weather is wonderful and the atmosphere of the carnival is amazing. 4) I've been dancing every night in the streets to the samba music. 5) I've taken lots of photos of the amazing costumes to show you when I get back. Right now 6) I'm lying on the beach relaxing. Later 7) I'm having dinner at a local restaurant and then 8) I'm going back to the party.

Wish you were here.

Claire

have

+

been

+

Ving



Match the verb forms in the postcard to their uses.

**Present Perfect.** An action which started in the past and continues to the present.

**Present Simple (stative)** expression of feeling

**Present Perfect Continuous.** An action which started in the past and continues to the present with emphasis on duration.

**Present Perfect.** An action completed recently.

**Present Continuous.** A fixed arrangement in the near future.

**Present Continuous.** A fixed arrangement in the near future.

5) I've taken lots of photos to show you when I get to the beach relaxing. Later 7) I'm having dinner at a local restaurant and then 8) I'm going back to the party. Wish you were here.

Claire



What are these tenses in your language?

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present tense. Give reasons.

When does the parade start?

Present Simple

For timetables  
and programmes.

It starts at 11 o'clock so we are  
meeting at 10.30.

Present Simple

For timetables  
and programmes.

Present  
Continuous

For fixed  
arrangements in  
the near future.





Tim looks tired. **Is he having** a tough time?

Yes, and he **is thinking** of taking a week off.

Present Simple

Stative verb in present simple meaning 'appears'

Present Continuous

Stative verb in present continuous meaning 'is he experiencing'



Present Continuous

Stative verb in present continuous meaning 'is considering'

Have you ever attended a music festival?

Actually, I ... (go) to the U2 concert this Sunday.

Present Perfect

For actions that happened in the past at an unstated time.

Present Continuous

For fixed arrangements in the near future.



You look exhausted. What have you been doing?

Present Perfect Continuous

For an action which started some time in the past and has a visible result in the present.

I have been digging in the garden since morning.

Present Perfect Continuous

For an action which started in the past and continuous up to the present, with emphasis on the duration.



Why are you smelling the candy floss?

Present Continuous

Stative verb in present continuous meaning 'are you sniffing'

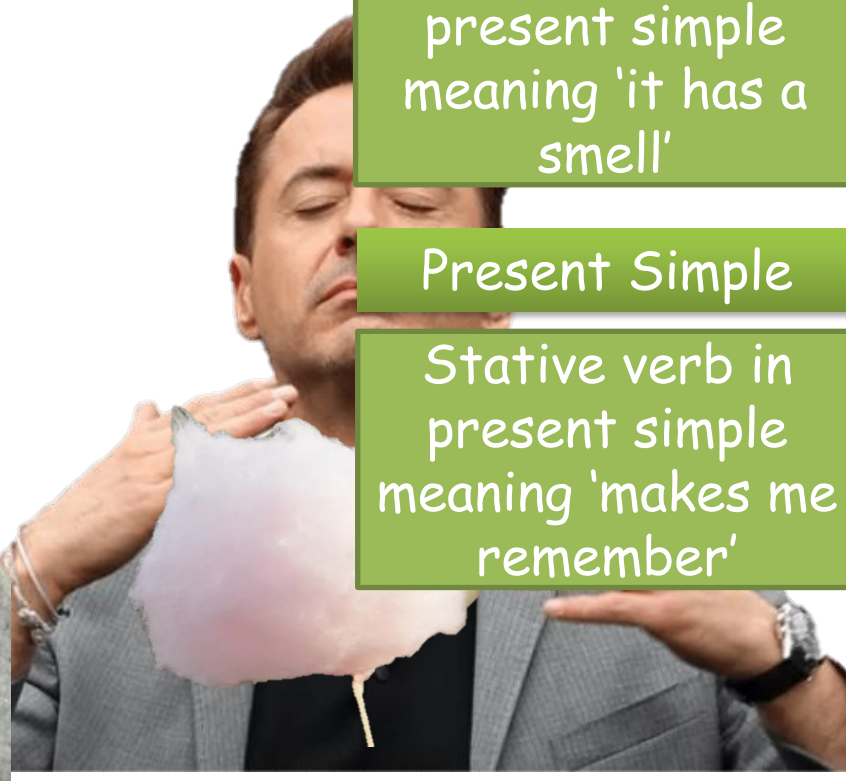
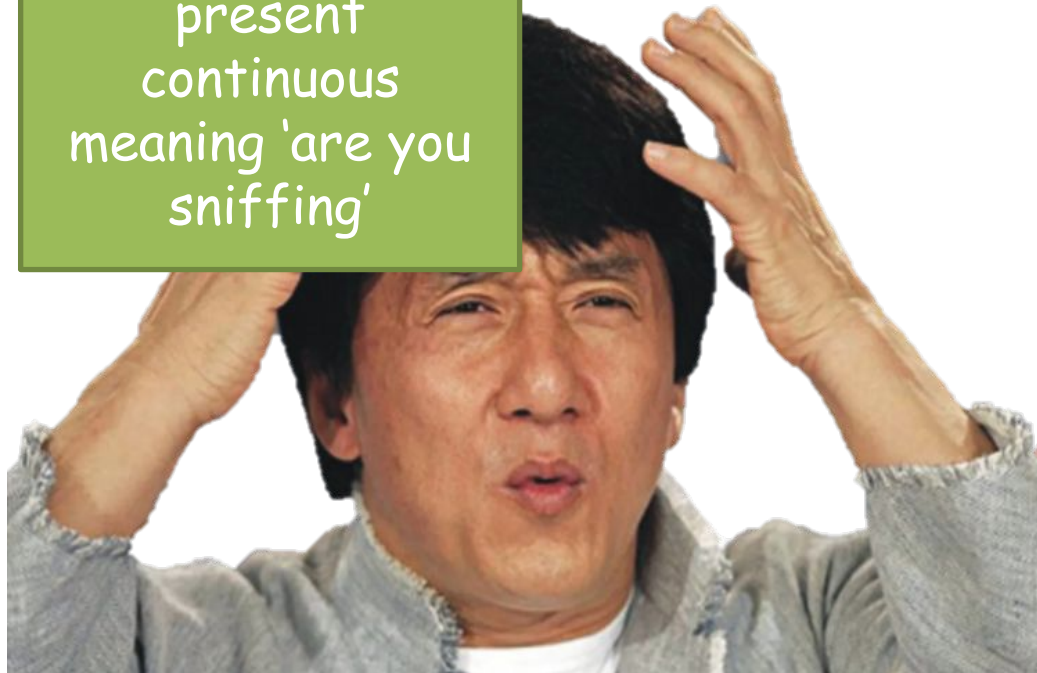
It smells nice and it reminds me of when I was young.

Present Simple

Stative verb in present simple meaning 'it has a smell'

Present Simple

Stative verb in present simple meaning 'makes me remember'





Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or continuous. How do the sentences differ in meaning?

Paula ..... looks ..... (look) sad.

appears



Difference

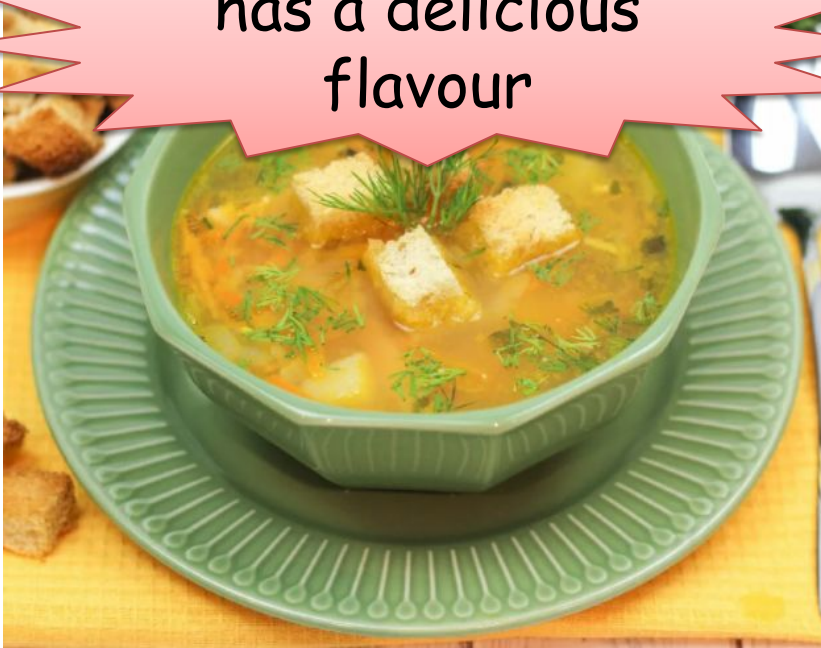
is directing  
her eyes

Paula ... is looking ... (look) for  
her car keys.



This soup ..... tastes .....  
(**taste**) delicious.

has a delicious  
flavour



is testing the  
flavour of

He ..... is tasting .. (**taste**) the  
soup to see if it needs salt.

Difference

Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or continuous. How do the sentences differ in meaning?

This fabric ..... *feels* .....  
(**feel**) soft

has the  
texture of



Difference

is  
experiencing

Toby ..... *is feeling* (**feel**)  
unwell at the moment.





Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or continuous. How do the sentences differ in meaning?

Lucy ..... *thinks* ..... (think)  
Shakira is great.

has the  
opinion of

is  
considering

Lucy ... *is thinking* ... (think) of  
buying Shakira's new album.



Difference





Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or continuous. How do the sentences differ in meaning?

He ..... *has* ..... (have) three cats.



owns/  
possess sth



is  
holding

He .... *is having* ... (have) a party on Saturday.

Difference

Complete the questions using **do**, **go** or **have**. Then ask and answer to find out about your partner's life.

always 100%

usually 75%

often 50%

sometimes 25%

rarely/seldom 10%

never 0%

## How often ...

1. .... **do you have** ..... a late night?
2. .... **do you go** ..... out with friends?
3. .... **do you go** ..... shopping?
4. .... **do you do** ..... the washing-up?
5. .... **do you go** ..... out for a meal?
6. .... **do you go** ..... to a party?
7. .... **do you have** ..... a family get-together?
8. .... **do you have** ..... a shower/bath?
9. .... **do you do** ..... the ironing?
10. .... **do you go** ..... to bed after midnight?

A: How often do you go out with friends?

B: I usually go out with my friends at the weekend.

A: How often do you go shopping?

B: I seldom go shopping only when I need something.

In pairs, use the phrases to act out dialogues, as in the examples.



Have you ever V<sub>3</sub> ...?

Tell the class about your partner.

Use the phrases to write sentences, as in the example. Use the present perfect or the present perfect continuous.

5. ~~She looks different~~ (dye/hair/recently)

She has dyed her hair recently.

She's just broken a mirror.

2. My ears hurt. (listen/to loud music/all afternoon)  
He ~~isn't~~ coming. (see/the film/before)

He's seen the film before.

afternoon.

3. Ann is sunburnt. (lie/in the sun/all day)

She's been lying in the sun all day.

4. Sam can't get back into his house.  
(lose/key)

He's lost his key.





Fill in the present perfect or present perfect continuous and choose for or since.

I ..... (haven't been) a party for/  
**since** last year.



Fill in the present perfect or present perfect continuous and choose for or since.


It .. *has been raining* ) **for** / since hours



Fill in the present perfect or present perfect continuous and choose for or since.



He ... *has known* ) Sally ~~for~~/since six years.



They *have been* in the team ~~for~~/since 2002



Fill in the present perfect or present perfect continuous and choose for or since.



We ... *haven't seen* e) George **for/since** a long time.



John *has been reading* **for/since** early this morning.



Act out dialogues, as in the example.

Excited - organise/party

- ✓ Send out invitations
- ✓ Buy food
- ✗ Book a band



You look really excited! What have you been doing?

I've been organising a party.

Really? What have you done so far?

Well, I've already sent out the invitations and I've bought the food, but I haven't booked a band yet.



# Exhausted - do/homework

You look really exhausted! What have you been doing?

I've been doing my homework.

What have you done so far?

Well, I've already finished the maths and I've written an essay, but I haven't studied for my test yet.

- ✓ Finish/maths
- ✓ Write essay
- ✗ Study test



# Dirty - work/garden

You look really dirty! What have you been doing?

I've been working in the garden.

Really? What have you done so far?

Well, I've already planted some new flowers and I've dug up the weeds, but I haven't cut the grass yet.

- ✓ Plant/new flowers
- ✓ Dig up/weeds
- ✗ Cut/grass





Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. Compare with your partner.

Dear Xenia,

How are you? I **1) .....** **(be)** really busy recently because tomorrow **2) .....** **(be)** one of the most important days of my school life – my prom night! **3) .....** **(you/ever/hear)** of a prom before? Let me tell you all about it!

Here in the USA, schools **4) .....** **(have)** prom nights every year to congratulate the students who **5) .....** **(just/finish)** school that year. Everyone **6) .....** **(dress up)** in their best outfits and we **7) .....** **(dance)** the evening away in style. I **8) .....** **(look forward to)** this day all year! The good news is that I **9) .....** **(find)** the perfect dress! The prom **10) .....** **(start)** at 8 so John **11) .....** **(pick me up)** at my house at 8 o'clock in his new car. I **12) .....** **(feel)** quite nervous at the moment to tell you the truth.

Anyway, I'll write and tell you all about the big day!

Love,  
Jennifer

1. 've been

2. is

3. Have you ever heard

4. have

5. have just finished

6. dresses up

7. dance

8. 've been looking forward to

9. 've found

10. starts

11. is picking me up

12. 'm feeling

Read the sentences. Which words do we use to form exclamations? Is it the same in your language?

# Exclamations

## exclamation

noun [C]

US  /ˌek-skleɪˈmeɪʃən/

a word that expresses sudden pain, surprise, anger, excitement, happiness, or other emotion:

- "Ouch," "hey," and "wow" are exclamations.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

!

\_\_\_\_\_

Isn't it a great party?



Write exclamations for the following.

1. You like your friend's new outfit.
2. The cake at a party is delicious.
3. You see a very pretty girl.
4. You admire the way someone sings.



How beautiful he sings!

A photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a white t-shirt. He is holding a microphone with both hands and appears to be singing. The background is a blurred stage setting with blue and orange lighting.



Exchange school news with your partner. Find out about recent events, things going on at the moment and anything planned for the near future. Use present tenses and the adverbs in the list.

just

yet

already

for

since

at the moment

many years

now

next week

all week

We've also been preparing for the prom all week.

That sounds fun. We've already had our school dance.



To prepare for the prom

Put the verbs in brackets into the **present simple, present continuous, present perfect** or **present perfect continuous**.

# Workbook

Dear Jane,

I 1) ..... **know** ..... (know) that it's quite a while since I last wrote to you, but for the past few weeks I **have been doing** so many things at the same time, that I hardly had time for anything!

3) **Have I told** . (I/tell) you that my school

4) **is holding** (pld) a big dance next week? We 5)

**are celebrating** (celebrate) the end of the school

year. As **spend/am spending/** the organising

committee **have been spending** most of my time

after school trying to work out the details of the

event. 7) **Do you have** . (you/have) any good

ideas to give me?

What about you? What 8) **have you been doing** ) lately? 9) **Are you still working** (till/work) at your dad's shop after school? You know what? I 10) **have just had** (t/have) a great idea! Why don't you come to visit me for a few days? You can come to our school dance, and then we can spend some time together.

Anyway, I have to go now. Let me know what you decide!

Love,  
Mary

Write exclamations for the following, as in the example.

You think your friend looks very nice.

Your sister's costume is funny.

The fireworks are amazing.

You like the way your friend dances.

You think your brother is very lucky.

How lucky you  
are!





# Use the present tenses to expand the sentences and include the words in brackets.

1 A: You/try/to fix/the computer? (still)

.....

B: Yes. I/try/all morning/and/I/not manage it.  
(yet)

.....

2 A: I/decide/what I wear/at tonight's school prom.  
(already)

.....

B: Me too. I/buy/perfect dress! (just)

.....

3 A: Jessica/go out/at weekends. (rarely)

.....

B: Really? How/she/spend/her time? (usually)

.....

4 A: He/go to bed/after midnight? (often)

.....

B: No. He/sleep/early. (sometimes)

.....

A: Are you still trying to fix the computer?

B: I have been trying all morning and I have not managed it yet.

A: I have already decided what I am wearing at tonight's school prom.

B: I have just bought the perfect dress!

A: Jessica rarely goes out at the weekends.

B: How does she usually spend her time?

A: Does he often go to bed after midnight?

B: He sometimes sleeps early.

## Circle the mistake (A or B) and then correct it, as in the example.

► Do you understand

- 1 Are you understanding what I've been trying to tell you all this time?  
A B
- 2 Hurry up! The parade has started in an hour and you are still getting ready.  
A B  
starts
- 3 Your fancy dress costume looks fantastic! Is this what you wear tonight?  
A B  
are wearing
- 4 Sarah hasn't been to a carnival for she was a little girl.  
A B  
since
- 5 Joshua never takes part in the town parade; he don't like wearing costumes.  
A B  
doesn't like
- 6 I am trying to call the festival organisers for the last three hours, but no one is answering the phone.  
A B  
have been trying