



ФАКУЛЬТЕТ  
ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ  
НГПУ

# **PRACTICAL GRAMMAR ONLINE:**

## **THE PRESENT INDEFINITE TENSE, THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE**

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# **OUR PLAN:**

- 1. Revision: categories and classification of verbs.**
- 2. Revision: the Present Indefinite Tense.**
- 3. Exercise 1. Notes.**
- 4. The Present Continuous Tense.**
- 5. Exercises 2 and 3.**

# REVISION: the verb

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Verbs are words...

Verbs have 7 categories...

Verbs can be classified according to...

There are two types of contexts...

# Categories of verbs

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Verbs have seven categories:

- 1) Mood [not this semester]
- 2) Tense [Present / Past / Future / Future-in-the-Past]
- 3) Aspect [Continuous / Non-Continuous]
- 4) Time Correlation [Perfect / Non-Perfect]
- 5) Voice [Active / Passive]
- 6) Person [1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>]
- 7) Number [singular/ plural]

NB: The word 'indefinite' means 'non-perfect + non-continuous'

# Describe the forms in these sentences:

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1. The friends climbed that mountain.
2. The TV had been fixed before.
3. Why are you whispering?
4. This ship will sink soon.
5. The universe has been expanding since the Big Bang.

**Run this sentence through all the forms:**

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We lose this key regularly.

THE TENSE	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
Present Indefinite	I ask.	I am asked
Present Continuous	I am asking	I am being asked
Present Perfect	I have asked	I have been asked
Present Perfect Continuous	I have been asking	-
Past Indefinite	I asked.	I was asked
Past Continuous	I was asking	I was being asked
Past Perfect	I had asked	I had been asked
Past Perfect Continuous	I had been asking	-
Future Indefinite	I will ask	I will be asked
Future Continuous	I will be asking	-
Future Perfect	I will have asked	-
Future-Indefinite-in-the-Past	I would ask	I would be asked
Future-Continuous-in-the-Past	I would be asking	-
Future-Perfect-in-the-Past	I would have asked	-

# Classifications of verbs

I. According to the function in the sentence:

1)

2)

3)

4)

II. According to the type of object they take:

1)

2)

III. According to the ability to be used in the continuous form:

1)

2)

IV. According to the limit inside the action:

1)

2)



# Classify these verbs:

	FUNCTION	TYPE OF OBJECT	THE CONTINUOUS FORM	THE LIMIT INSIDE THE ACTION
TO WATCH				
TO SMILE				
TO WANT				
TO BURN				
TO HEAR				
TO LISTEN				

# Classify these verbs:

	FUNCTION	TYPE OF OBJECT	THE CONTINUOUS FORM	THE LIMIT INSIDE THE ACTION
TO SPEAK				
TO TALK				
TO SAY				
TO TELL				

# THE PRESENT INDEFINITE TENSE

The affirmative form of this tense is synthetic.

The suffix -s is added to the verbs in the 3rd person singular.

I work.	She works.
We work.	He works.
You work.	It works.
They work.	

The negative and interrogative forms are analytical. We use the auxiliary verb "do".

The auxiliary verb takes the suffix -s from the verb in the 3rd person singular.

I do not work. Do I work?  
We do not work. Do we work?  
You do not work. Do you work?  
They do not work. Do they work?

She does not work. Does she work?  
He does not work. Does he work?  
It does not work. Does it work?

# THE PRESENT INDEFINITE TENSE: MEANINGS

1) to denote ...

2) to express ...

3) to denote actions at ...

a)

b)

4) to denote ...

a) with verbs of ...

b) in ...

c) after the phrases...

5) to denote

a) in ...

b) in ...

# THE PRESENT INDEFINITE TENSE: MEANINGS

- 1) to denote habitual actions or everyday activity;
- 2) to express a general statement or a universal truth;
- 3) to denote actions at the moment of speaking:
  - a) to show a succession of actions;
  - b) with stative verbs;
- 4) to denote a future action:
  - a) with verbs of motion to denote a settled plan;
  - b) in adverbial clauses of time, condition and concession
  - c) after the verb “to see” and the verbal phrases “to make sure”, “to take care”;
- 5) to denote a past action:
  - a) in newspaper headlines;
  - b) in vivid narration;

## NB 1: Emphatic “Do”:

When the speaker wants to put special stress on the verb in a very emotional sentence, he or she may use the auxiliary “do” in the affirmative sentence.

e.g. Ask him again, he *does know* what it was.

She *does help* me so much!

I *do understand* that you are very busy, but will you explain this to me?

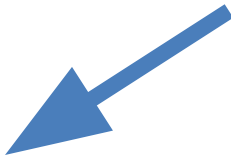
We *do appreciate* your help.

## NB 2: THE INVISIBLE POSTER

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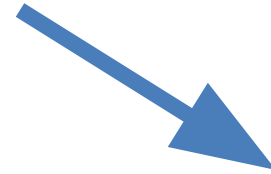
We **never** use any future tenses  
in adverbial clauses of  
time, condition and concession.



When  
After  
Before  
Until  
While  
Once  
As  
As soon as



If  
Unless



Whatever  
Whenever  
Wherever  
Whoever  
Whichever  
No matter how



## EXERCISE 1.

1. I sleep here. My father sleeps in his study.
2. In case she wants to see him, he'll come over.
3. 'Your mouth is bleeding. Does it hurt?' Martha asked me.
4. Where do we go from here?
5. Please see that the children don't get nervous.
6. I do a lot of travelling, you know.
7. One lives and learns.
8. He owns a big car.

## EXERCISE 1.

9. “It won’t do any good to anyone if you get ill,” I said.

10. “His men act silently as a rule. They wear dark glasses and they call after dark,” he added.

11. You understand what we’re talking about?

12. Changes happen very quickly here.

13. How quickly you leap to his defence!

14. I said, “I take things as they come.”

## EXERCISE 1.

15. His temper will not be right until we are at home again.

16. “Do you often,” I asked, “take holidays in these parts?”

17. She beat with her hand on the back of the sofa and cried to them: “You talk too much.”

18. “It’s too late to go anywhere.” “What do we do then?”

19. “Perhaps after breakfast I could ring up my family.” “The telephone does not work.”

## EXERCISE 1.

20. Then the captain announced in a duty voice:  
“Tomorrow afternoon we arrive by four o’clock.”

21. The news calls for champagne,” Jones said.

22. Why don’t you go back home?

23. They wish to make sure that he does not alter  
his plans.

24. She thought he wanted to look a mystery man  
to her. “You play your role fine,” she said.

25. I brush my teeth every night.

## EXERCISE 1.

26. “I give up,” she said. “You win”.

27. It is a scene in which Mr. Dante, in a white dinner-jacket, arrives at the ground floor by lift. The lift door opens, Dante gets out, looks at something on his left, registers alarm and walks away briskly.

28. I must be well by that time, whatever happens.

29. I’ve got to get him to the station. His train leaves at eleven.

# THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE:

**Formation:**

**Meanings:**

**1)**

**2)**

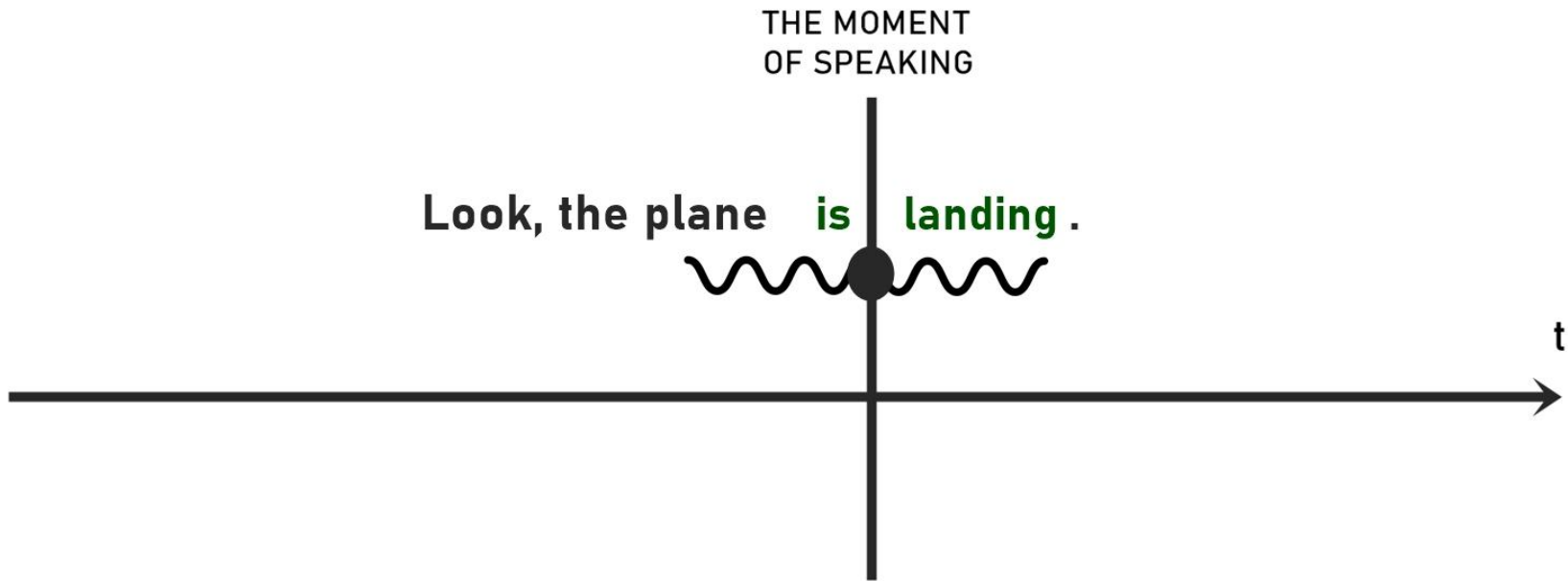
**3)**

**4)**

**+ NB:**

## Meaning 1:

an action going on at the moment of speaking.



e.g.

Why are you talking about me in the third person? I am standing right here.

I'm sitting here in the boring room. It's just another lazy Sunday afternoon.

Is the patient breathing? We are losing him!

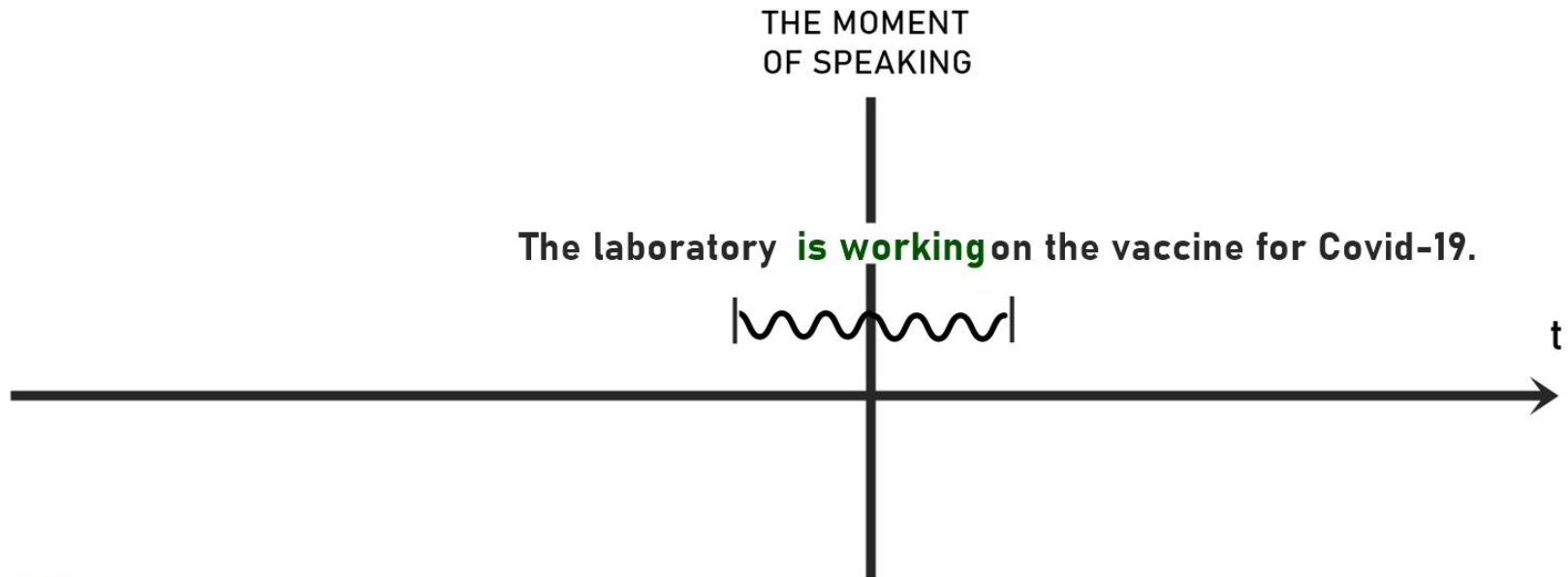
The clouds are drifting across the sky.

Wait a second, the page is loading.

The waiter is standing behind the counter with a notepad in his hand.

## Meaning 2:

an action going on at the present period (but not necessarily right now).



e.g.

We are working on a project in computer assisted translation.

I'm writing a novel about the third world war.

She is buying a mansion in Florida.

He is opening a restaurant in Montmartre.

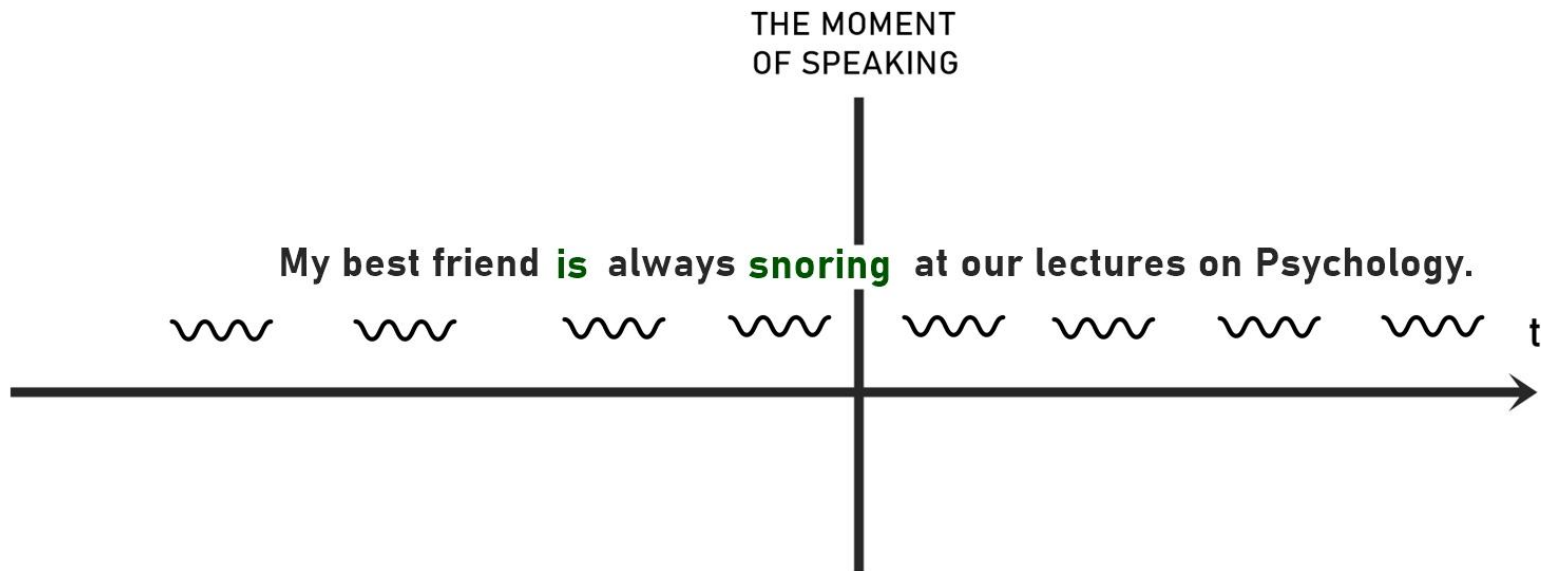
They are planning their wedding.

I'm reading 'Gone with the Wind' in the original.



### Meaning 3:

negative attitude to typical behaviour (+ 'always' , 'constantly', or 'never').



e.g.

You are never washing the dishes.

Students are always doing their homework at the last moment.

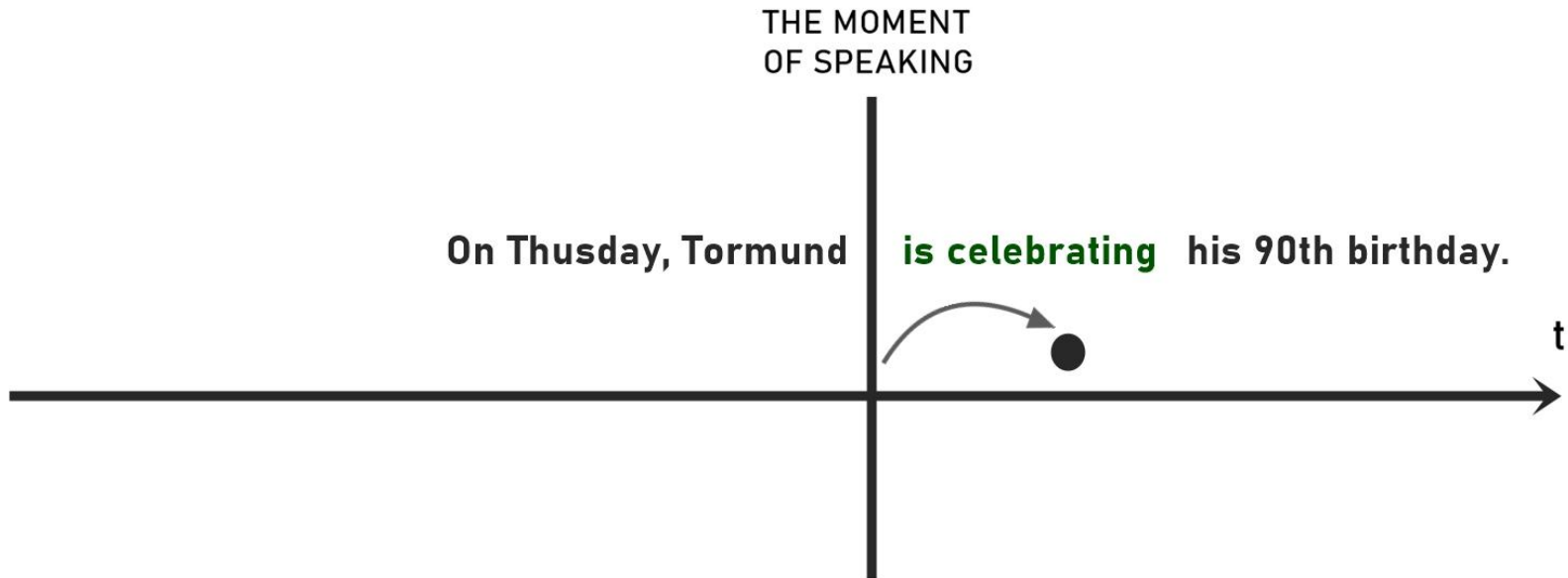
People on the bus are always stamping on my feet.

You are always embarrassing me in public.

My parents are constantly nagging.

Professors are never coordinating the home tasks they set.

## Meaning 4: a planned action in the nearest future.



e.g.

I'm travelling to Berlin next week.

Winter is coming.

The royal couple are having a baby in early May.

Jessica is arriving on Saturday.

I'm taking an international exam in English this summer.

We are ordering a pizza delivery and having a party tonight.

## **Note 1.**

**If a stative verb is used in the Present Continuous Tense, it changes its meaning to a secondary one.**

<b>I see you!</b> (= use my eyes)	<b>====&gt;</b>	<b>Taylor and Sam are seeing each other.</b> (= are dating)
<b>Do you think it's true?</b> (= have an opinion)	<b>====&gt;</b>	<b>Are you thinking about the accident again?</b> (= have a mental process)
<b>We have a cottage in Wiltshire.</b> (= possess, own)	<b>====&gt;</b>	<b>Pause the TV show. I think I'm having a heart attack.</b> (= have as part of a set phrase)
<b>You are so rude.</b> (it's your regular feature)	<b>====&gt;</b>	<b>You are being very rude.</b> (but normally you are a polite person)
<b>I feel cold.</b> (= have a sensation)	<b>====&gt;</b>	<b>I'm feeling cold.</b> (= have a sudden sensation that I can't explain)
<b>I love French fries.</b> (= am fond of)	<b>====&gt;</b>	<b>I'm loving it!</b> (it's a super emotion)

## EXERCISE 2.

1. Bill, stop that disgusting game you're playing.
2. They've moved to their London house. They are buying new furniture.
3. He paused and looked at her. "You are shaking. Are you all right?"
4. He is always having to check his emotions.
5. I am meeting Jason at his office on the 25th. Would you join us?
6. You know that cinema audiences are declining in the United States.

## EXERCISE 2.

7. The rain is just beginning.

8. Sally put down the telephone. “It was Dan. He’s staying at the club tonight. He’s too tired to drive home.”

9. You are always drinking tea when I come here for a snack.

10. I miss her very much, almost every minute of the day I think of her, or I think I’m hearing her.

11. He started into the house ahead of us shouting, “Mary, what are you doing? Your guests have come.”

## EXERCISE 2.

12. “I’m sorry,” I said, “I’m being clumsy.”

13. My cousin just rented an old barn to a young man who repairs bicycles. He’s there all the time. Even on Sundays. He’s working on some kind of invention.

14. My father is always saying things he shouldn’t say in front of me.

15. “Don’t go,” he said. “I feel faint. The room is spinning around.”

## EXERCISE 2.

16. I'll say good night to you, Mr. Brown, now, if you'll excuse me. I'm feeling kind of exhausted this evening.

17. "Why are you still dressed?" her father asked. "I'm working tonight. Mr. Hardy has a meeting at his house. I'm going out there to take notes."

18. "I'm not scared," she said. "You are. You're wishing I hadn't done it."

19. Paris is wonderful. I like the food here, and I'm eating like mad.

20. The aspirin isn't working, I'm in pain.

## **EXERCISE 2.**

21. Albert is doing quite nicely in the used-car business.

22. By the way, I'm having some people over for dinner tonight.

23. Helen, please don't talk to me in a tiresome voice. You are not being scolded. We are simply discussing what can be done.

24. Come and sit by Leo and me. We're having a boring gossip all about Peter's chances.

25. Hello, Alice. You're looking healthy, prosperous and fine.

26. "I've heard the whole story, all the town is talking of it," he said.



## EXERCISE 3.

1. He has suffered a great deal of pain. You (not to think) he (to behave) very well, though?
2. “I (to live) up there,” she said, indicating the gates.
3. I never (to change) my shoes even when I (to get) my feet wet.
4. “By the way,” I asked Arthur, “what Bill (to do) now?”
5. The guard stared at him. “You (to have) a pass?”
6. “Mr. Brown (to play) cards?” he asked.
7. “Luis (to keep) something secret.” “He (not to tell) you everything?”

### EXERCISE 3.

8. They will have to stay with us when they (to arrive) here.

9. “And what has become of Mr. Jones?” the man asked.  
“He (to do) well.”

10. “You must forgive me,” Mr. Smith said, “but I (not to touch) alcohol.”

11. It’s no use mumbling at me out of the side of your mouth, and imagining that you (to speak) French.

12. “Dan,” she said, turning to her husband with her hand over the mouthpiece, “why your brother (to call) so early?”

13. I (to believe) she (to feel) foolish this morning.

### EXERCISE 3.

14. If there is one thing I (not to like) on a voyage it is the unexpected. Naturally I (not to talk) of the sea. The sea (to present) no problem.

15. He will give me a welcome whenever I (to come) here.

16. A very old woman was staring at them intently. "We (to do) something to attract attention?" Grace asked.

17. At the further end of the village (to stand) the medieval church.

18. "I shall go mad if this (to go) on much longer," said Rex.

19. "Where's Mrs. Hardy?" "Downstairs, Sir. She (to greet) the guests."

### EXERCISE 3.

20. May I put my car away in your garage in case anyone (to come)?

21. He gave me a smile as much as to say: "I only (to joke)."

22. Mr. Smith and I never (to travel) anywhere without a bottle of aspirin.

23. The wheel of her bicycle was bent out of shape. "What I (to do) now?" she asked.

24. She always (to try) to show off to her husband that she can do without him.

25. The doctor (not to see) the patients today. He has been called away.

26. "If you (to feel) so strongly," she said, "why you (not to do) something about it?"

# **HOMEWORK:**

- 1) Learn everything by heart.**
- 2) Make your own examples about the Present Continuous Tense.**
- 3) Make a digest about the Present Perfect Tense.**
- 4) Do exercises 4 and 11 in Krylova's Practice Book**