

The Present tenses

Simple Present and Present
Continuous

Simple Present

We form affirmative statements with a subject and a verb or a verb + -s or -es

I like tennis *Mary likes tennis*

We use the auxiliary verbs do/does to form negative statements, questions and short answers

We don't like football *John doesn't like baseball* *Why do you like tennis?*
Do you like squash? *Does John like baseball?* *What does the referee do?*
Yes, we do *No, he doesn't*

Uses of the present simple

- To describe repeated actions or habits
I get up at seven every morning
- To talk about things that are always or generally true
The sun sets in the west
- To describe a permanent situation or a condition with no definite start or finish but which is true now
We live in London
- With adverbs of frequency such as always, usually, ...
She often studies in the library
- With time expressions such as every day/ week/ year, in the morning/ afternoon/ evening and at night
I go to the gym once a week
- To express future meaning with actions and events that are part of a fixed timetable
The train leaves at 8'30
- *To describe a scene in the past in a vivid way*
Then he comes and says ...

POSITION OF FREQUENCY ADVERBS



Nadal **never** drinks alcohol

Rafa doesn't **always** win

Does Nadal **sometimes** train with Federer?

Nadal is **hardly ever** demotivated

Verb endings

Present Simple

- We add –s to most verbs: *walks, gets, ...*
- We add –es to verbs that end in sh, ch, ss or o: *finishes, goes, catches, ...*
- If a verb ends in a consonant +y, we change the y to i and add –es: *tries, studies, ...*
- If a verb ends in a vowel +y, we add –s: *pays, plays, ...*

Present Continuous

We form the Present Continuous tense with the present tense of be + a verb + -ing

They are playing baseball

They aren't succeeding

Who is winning?

Why is that player running now?

Uses of the Present Continuous

- To talk about something which is in progress at the moment of speaking
It is raining now
- To talk about something which is in progress around the present, but not exactly at the time of speaking
Peter is looking for a job these days
- To talk about situations which are developing or temporary
Computers are becoming more and more important in our lives
- With adverbs such as always or constantly to express complaints and annoyance
He is always calling me late at night
- With time expressions such as now, at the moment, at present, these days, nowadays and today
I'm writing an e-mail right now
- To talk about future arrangements or plans
I'm meeting Peter tomorrow

Verb endings

Present Continuous

- For most verbs, we add –ing: *starting, playing, studying, ...*
- If the verb ends in a consonant +e, we drop –e and add –ing: *living*
- If the verb has one syllable and ends in a single vowel + a consonant, we double the consonant and add –ing: *stopping, planning, ...*

Exceptions:

- If the verb ends in w or x, we don't double the final consonant: *fixing, showing, ...*
- If the verb has 2 syllables, ends in a vowel + a consonant and the stress on the last syllable, it doubles the final consonant: *preferring, beginning*
- If the verb has 2 syllables and ends in –l, it doubles the l: *travelling*
- If the verb ends in –ie, it changes –ie to –y and adds –ing: *tying, dying*

Stative and action verbs

Stative verbs

They describe a state. Something that is and stays the same

He seems very tired

There are different types:

- Verbs of senses: feel, see, sound, hear, smell, taste
- Verbs of mental states: believe, realise, remember, know, ...
- Verbs of possession: belong, have, own, possess
- Verbs of feeling or emotion: like, hate, adore, love, wish, ...
- Verbs of measurement: weigh, contain, cost, measure
- Other verbs that express states: be, exist, seem, owe, require

Stative and action verbs

Action verbs

An action verb describes an action, something that happens

I'm reading

Action verbs can be in the continuous form

I read a book every week

This week, I'm reading Moby Dick

Stative and action verbs

Change of meaning

Some verbs change their meaning depending if we use them in the progressive or non-progressive form

Think

He thinks it is a good idea

He is thinking about eating a biscuit

Have

She has (got) a mobile phone

She's having a great time

She's having breakfast

Verbs of seeing and hearing

Action verbs: watch, look at, listen to

Non-action verbs: see, hear

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