

UNIT 1

Present Forms

Present Simple

FORM

I / You **work**. — He / She / It **works**.
 Do you **work**? — Does he **work**? Yes, I **do**./No, he **doesn't**.
 I **do not (don't) work**. — He **does not (doesn't) work**.

Use

The **present simple** is used:

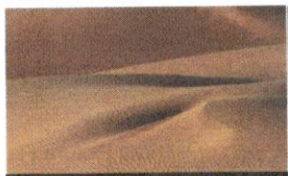
- ◆ for permanent states, repeated actions and daily routines.

He **works** at a hotel.
 (permanent state)
 He **lays** the tables and **serves** dinner every day.
 (daily routine/repeated actions)



- ◆ for general truths and laws of nature.

It **rarely rains** in the desert.



- ◆ for timetables (trains, planes, etc.) and programmes.

The plane to London **takes off** at 6:50 am.



- ◆ for sports commentaries, reviews and narration.

- Hill **kicks** the ball and **passes** it to Dawson.
 (sports commentary)
- Laura Hunt **acts** superbly in the film.
 (review)
- So, the prince **tells** her ...
 (narration)



The **present simple** is used with the following **time expressions**: *always, usually, etc., every day/week/month/year, etc., on Mondays/Tuesdays, etc., in the morning/afternoon/evening, at night/the weekend, etc.*

Present Continuous

FORM

I **am ('m) working**. / You **are ('re) working**. / He **is ('s) working**.
 Are you / Is he **working**? Yes, I **am**./No, he **isn't**.
 I **am ('m) not working**. / He **is not (isn't) working**. / They **are not (aren't) working**.

The **present continuous** is used:

- ◆ for actions taking place now, at the moment of speaking, or for temporary actions; that is actions that are going on around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.

Helen **is working** hard these days. Right now she's **reading** a newspaper. (She is not working at the moment of speaking.)



- ◆ with *always* when we want to express our irritation at actions which happen too often.

You're **always forgetting** to pay the bills.



- ◆ for actions that we have already arranged to do in the near future, especially when the time and place have been decided.

Melanie **is getting** married at 3 this afternoon. (The time and the place for the wedding ceremony have been decided.)



- ◆ for changing or developing situations.

More and more forests **are disappearing** because of fires.



The **present continuous** is used with the following **time expressions**: *now, at the moment, these days, at present, tonight, nowadays, still, etc.*

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Present Forms

Adverbs of Frequency

- ◆ The present simple is often used with adverbs of frequency (always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom/rarely, never, etc.) to show how often something happens. The adverbs of frequency answer the question **How often...?**

e.g. How often do you go to bed early?
I **always/ usually** go to bed early.

100%	75%	50%	25%	10%	0%
always	usually	often	sometimes	rarely/ seldom	never

- ◆ Adverbs of frequency come before the main verb (listen, watch, etc.), but after the verb to be and auxiliary or modal verbs, such as do, can, must, etc. The adverbs **rarely, seldom** and **never** have a negative meaning and are never used with the word **not**.

e.g. Emily **never** watches horror films.
You **must always** behave yourself at school.
Does Roger **often** call you during the week?

Adverbs of frequency always go before the auxiliary verb in short answers.

e.g. Do you buy expensive clothes? No, I **never** do.

6 In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

SA: Do you often go to the cinema?
SB: Yes, I do. I usually go to the cinema at the weekend.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 go to the cinema | 4 listen to the radio |
| 2 buy magazines | 5 phone your friends |
| 3 watch quiz shows | 6 play computer games |


7 Put the adverbs of frequency in the correct position.

- A: Do you often go to parties, Keith?
B: Yes, I go to parties at the weekend. (often)
Yes, I often go to parties at the weekend.
- A: Do you wear sports clothes at work?
B: No, I do. (never)
- A: Jack is late again!
B: I know. He arrives on time. (never)
- A: When do you go shopping?
B: I do my shopping on Fridays. (usually)
- A: Does your boss often ask you to work overtime?
B: No, he does. (seldom)
- A: You should listen to your parents' advice. (always)
B: That's exactly what I do.

8

Read about Celine's daily routine and make sentences, as in the example. Then, talk about your daily routine using adverbs of frequency.

S1: Celine usually wakes up at 7 in the morning.
S2: She always drives to work in the morning.

morning	evening
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually wake up at 7 always drive to work normally get to work by 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually have dinner at 6 often watch TV never go to bed before 11

S1: I always wake up at 7:30 in the morning.
S2: I usually go to school on foot in the morning.

9


Michael McIntosh is a politician. Read the text and put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

Michael McIntosh 1) ...is... (be) a very busy man. Every morning, he 2) (leave) home at 8 o'clock, and 3) (go) to his office. He 4) (usually/have) meetings until lunchtime, and in the afternoon, he 5) (often/visit) the people of Madewell. He really 6) (enjoy) talking to people. At the moment, he and his team 7) (organise) his election campaign. There are elections in June and he 8) (hope) to persuade lots of people to vote for him. Next month, he 9) (go) to London to meet the Prime Minister. They 10) (have) a meeting to discuss future plans for Madewell.

10

Read the information about the people and make sentences, as in the example.

S1: Alex is a photographer. S2: He works from 9 to 5.



- Alex, photographer
- work from 9 to 5
- have lunch at studio
- work outdoors at the moment
- fly to Milan on Saturday



- Philip, teacher
- work from 9 to 6
- have lunch at school
- practise a new play with students at the moment
- get married next month

State Verbs

State verbs are verbs which do not normally have continuous tenses because they describe a state rather than an action. These include:

- ◆ verbs which express likes and dislikes: *like, love, hate, dislike, enjoy, prefer, etc.*
e.g. Cathy **likes** romantic films.
- ◆ verbs of perception: *believe, know, notice, remember, forget, recognise, understand, realise, seem, think, etc.* e.g. I **don't believe** a word he's saying.
- ◆ verbs of the senses: *see, hear, feel, taste, look, smell, sound.* We often use *can* or *could* with these verbs when we refer to what we see, hear, etc. at the moment of speaking.
e.g. The soup **tastes** delicious.
John **must be** in the attic. I **can hear** his footsteps.
- ◆ some other verbs: *be, contain, fit, include, matter, need, belong, cost, owe, mean, own, appear, want, have (=possess), etc.*
e.g. This book **is** mine. It **belongs** to me.

Some state verbs have continuous tenses, but there is a difference in meaning.

Study the following examples:

- 1) I **think** she's Italian. (=believe)
I'm **thinking about** my holiday. (=am considering)
- 2) The soup **tastes** awful. (=has an awful flavour)
She's **tasting** the soup. (=is testing the flavour of)
- 3) I **can see** an aeroplane in the sky. (=perceive with my eyes)
I'm **seeing** Jill tonight. (=am meeting)
- 4) Susan **looks** tired. (=appears)
Susan **is looking** at some photos. (=is studying)
- 5) The room **smells** of perfume. (=has the smell)
The cat **is smelling** its food. (=is sniffing)
- 6) This towel **feels** soft. (=has a soft texture)
Jill **is feeling** her son's forehead. (=is touching)
- 7) He **is** selfish. (character — permanent state)
He **is being** selfish. (behaviour — temporary situation)
- 8) He **has** a sports car. (=possesses)
He's **having lunch** now. (=is eating — idiom)

Some idioms with **have** include:

have	breakfast / lunch / dinner, etc.
	a bath / shower / swim / party, etc.
	a(n) accident / experience / dream, etc.
	a baby
	difficulty / fun / trouble, etc.

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