

Present Continuous (*I am doing*)

## A

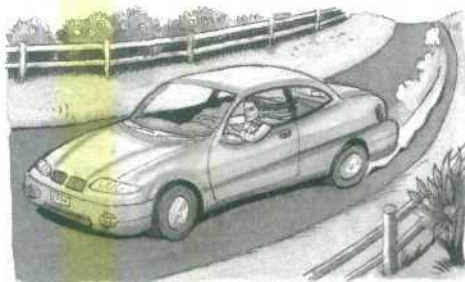
Study this example situation:

Ann is in her car. She is on her way to work.  
She is **driving** to work.

This means: she is driving now, at the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

**Am/is/are -ing** is the *present continuous*:

I am (= I'm)	driving
he/she/it is (= he's, etc.)	working
we/you/they are (= we're, etc.)	doing, etc.



## B

**I am doing something** = I'm in the middle of doing something; I've started doing it and I haven't finished yet. Often the action is happening at the time of speaking:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm working.** (*not I work*)
- "Where's Lauren?" "She's **taking** a bath." (*not She takes a bath*)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** anymore. (*not It doesn't rain*)
- (*at a party*) Hello, Lisa. **Are you enjoying** the party? (*not Do you enjoy*)
- I'm tired. **I'm going** to bed now. Good night!

But the action is not necessarily happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Tom and Ann are talking. Tom says:



**I'm reading** an interesting book at the moment.  
I'll lend it to you when I've finished it.

Tom is not reading the book at the time of speaking.  
He means that he has started it but has not finished it yet.  
He is in the middle of reading it.

Here are some more examples:

- Maria wants to work in Italy, so she is **studying** Italian. (*but perhaps she isn't studying Italian exactly at the time of speaking*)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house.

## C

We use the present continuous when we talk about things happening in a period around now (for example, **today / this week / tonight**, etc.):

- "You're **working** hard today." "Yes, I have a lot to do." (*not You work hard today*)
- "Is Sarah **working** this week?" "No, she's on vacation."

We use the present continuous when we talk about changes happening now or around now:

- The population of the world is **rising** very fast. (*not rises*)
- Is your English **getting** better? (*not Does your English get better?*)

# Exercises

## 1.1 Complete the sentences using one of the following verbs in the correct form.

come get happen look make start stay try work

1. "You *re working* \_\_\_\_\_ hard today." "Yes, I have a lot to do."
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ for Christine. Do you know where she is?
3. It \_\_\_\_\_ dark. Should I turn on the light?
4. They don't have anywhere to live at the moment. They \_\_\_\_\_ with friends until they find a place.
5. "Ann! Let's go!" "OK, I \_\_\_\_\_."
6. Do you have an umbrella? It \_\_\_\_\_ to rain.
7. You \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of noise. Could you please be quieter?  
I \_\_\_\_\_ to concentrate.
8. Why are all these people here? What \_\_\_\_\_ ?

## 1.2 Use the words in parentheses to complete the questions.

1. " *Is Brad working* \_\_\_\_\_ this week?" "No, he's on vacation." (Brad / work)
2. Why \_\_\_\_\_ at me like that? What's the matter? (you / look)
3. "Jenny is a student at the university." "Is she? What \_\_\_\_\_ ?" (she / study)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to the radio, or can I turn it off? (anybody / listen)
5. How is your English? \_\_\_\_\_ better? (it / get)

## 1.3 Put the verb into the correct form. Sometimes you need the negative (*I'm not doing*, etc.).

1. I'm tired. I *'m going* \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to bed now. Good night!
2. We can go out now. It *isn't raining* \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) anymore.
3. Laura phoned me last night. She's on vacation in France. She \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
4. I want to lose weight, so this week I \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) lunch.
5. Angela has just started evening classes. She \_\_\_\_\_ (study) German.
6. I think Dave and Amy had an argument. They \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to each other.

## 1.4 Read this conversation between Brian and Sarah. Put the verbs into the correct form.

Sarah: Brian! I haven't seen you in ages. What (1) *are you doing* \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) these days?

Brian: I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (train) to be a police officer.

Sarah: Really? What's it like? (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (you / enjoy) it?

Brian: It's all right. How about you?

Sarah: Well, actually, I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (not / work) right now.

I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to find a job, but it's not easy. But I'm pretty busy.

I (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) my apartment.

Brian: (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) it alone?

Sarah: No, some friends of mine (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (help) me.

## 1.5 Complete the sentences using one of these verbs: change fall get increase rise You don't have to use all the verbs, and you can use a verb more than once.

1. The population of the world *is rising* \_\_\_\_\_ very fast.
2. Robert is still sick, but he \_\_\_\_\_ better slowly.
3. The world \_\_\_\_\_. Things never stay the same.
4. The cost of living \_\_\_\_\_. Every year things are more expensive.
5. The economic situation is already very bad, and it \_\_\_\_\_ worse.

Simple Present (*I do*)

## A

Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep. So:  
He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

*but* He drives a bus. (He is a bus driver.)

drive(s)/work(s)/do(es), etc., is the *simple present*.

I/we/you/they drive/work/do, etc.  
he/she/it drives/works/does, etc.

## B

We use the simple present to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly or that something is true in general. It is not important whether the action is happening at the time of speaking:

- Nurses take care of patients in hospitals.
- I usually leave for work at 8:00 A.M.
- The earth goes around the sun.

Remember that we say *he/she/it -s*. Don't forget the *s*:

- I work . . . *but* He works . . . They teach . . . *but* My sister teaches . . .

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 5.

## C

We use *do/does* to make questions and negative sentences:

do I/we/you/they  
does he/she/it

work?  
come?  
do?

I/we/you/they don't  
he/she/it doesn't

work  
come  
do

- I come from Canada. Where do you come from?
- "Would you like a cigarette?" "No, thanks. I don't smoke."
- What does this word mean? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.

In the following examples *do* is also the main verb:

- "What do you do?" (= What's your job?) "I work in a department store."
- He's so lazy. He doesn't do anything to help me. (*not* He doesn't anything)

## D

We use the simple present when we say how often we do things:

- I get up at 8:00 every morning. (*not* I'm getting)
- How often do you go to the dentist? (*not* How often are you going?)
- Julie doesn't drink coffee very often.
- In the summer John usually plays tennis once or twice a week.

Note the position of *always/never/usually*, etc. (before the main verb):

- Sue always looks happy. (*not* Sue looks always)
- I never drink coffee at night.
- What time do you usually get home after work?

For word order, see also Unit 107.

# Exercises

## 2.1 Complete the sentences using one of the following:

cause(s) close(s) connect(s) drink(s) live(s) open(s) ~~speak(s)~~ take(s)

1. Ann *speaks* \_\_\_\_\_ German very well.
2. I never \_\_\_\_\_ coffee.
3. The swimming pool \_\_\_\_\_ at 9:00 and \_\_\_\_\_ at 6:30 every day.
4. Bad driving \_\_\_\_\_ many accidents.
5. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ in a very small apartment.
6. The Olympic Games \_\_\_\_\_ place every four years.
7. The Panama Canal \_\_\_\_\_ the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

## 2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

1. Jason *doesn't drink* \_\_\_\_\_ (not / drink) coffee very often.
2. What time \_\_\_\_\_ (the banks / close)?
3. I have a car, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / use) it very often.
4. "What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do)?" "I'm an electrical engineer."
5. It \_\_\_\_\_ (take) me an hour to get to work. How long \_\_\_\_\_ (it / take) you?
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the piano, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / play) very well.
7. I don't understand this sentence. What \_\_\_\_\_ (this word / mean)?

## 2.3 Use one of the following verbs to complete these sentences. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe eat flow ~~go~~ ~~grow~~ make rise tell translate

1. The earth *goes* \_\_\_\_\_ around the sun.
2. Rice *doesn't grow* \_\_\_\_\_ in Canada.
3. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ in the east.
4. Bees \_\_\_\_\_ honey.
5. Vegetarians \_\_\_\_\_ meat.
6. An atheist \_\_\_\_\_ in God.
7. An interpreter \_\_\_\_\_ from one language to another.
8. A liar is someone who \_\_\_\_\_ the truth.
9. The Amazon River \_\_\_\_\_ into the Atlantic Ocean.

## 2.4 Ask Liz questions about herself and her family.

1. You know that Liz plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
How often *do you play tennis* \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. Perhaps Liz's sister plays tennis, too. You want to know. Ask Liz.  
\_\_\_\_\_ your sister \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. You know that Liz reads a newspaper every day. You want to know which one. Ask her.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. You know that Liz's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Liz.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. You know that Liz goes to the movies a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. You don't know where Liz's mother lives. Ask Liz.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. You know that Liz works every day, but you want to know what time she starts work. Ask her.  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Present Continuous and Simple Present (1)

## (I am doing and I do)

### A

#### Present continuous (I am doing)

We use the *present continuous* for something that is happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

#### I am doing

past                      now                      future

- The water is boiling. Could you turn it off?
- Listen to those people. What language are they speaking?
- Let's go out. It isn't raining now.
- A: Don't disturb me. I'm busy.  
B: Why? What are you doing?
- I'm going to bed now. Good night.
- Maria is in Vancouver now. She's learning English.

Use the present continuous for temporary situations:

- I'm living with some friends until I find an apartment.
- "You're working hard today." "Yes, I've got a lot to do."

See Unit 1 for more information.

#### Simple present (I do)

We use the *simple present* for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

#### I do

past                      now                      future

- Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, do you speak English?
- It doesn't rain very much in the summer.
- What do you usually do on weekends?
- What do you do? (= What's your job?)
- I always go to bed before midnight.
- Most people learn to swim when they are children.

Use the simple present for permanent situations:

- My parents live in Boston. They have lived there all their lives.
- John isn't lazy. He works very hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

### B

#### I always do and I'm always doing

Usually we say "I always do something" (= I do it every time):

- I always go to work by car (*not* I'm always going)

You can also say "I'm always doing something," but this has a different meaning.

For example:

I've lost my key again. I'm always losing things.



"I'm always losing things" does not mean that I lose things every time. It means that I lose things too often or more often than normal.

You're always -ing means that you do something very often, more often than the speaker thinks is normal or reasonable.

- You're always watching TV. You should do something more active.
- John is never satisfied. He's always complaining.

# Exercises

### 3.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct the verbs that are wrong.

1. Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. RIGHT
2. The water boils. Could you turn it off? is boiling
3. Look! That man tries to open the door of your car. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The moon goes around the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I have to go now. It gets late. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I usually go to work by car. \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Hurry up! It's time to leave." "OK, I come." \_\_\_\_\_
9. I hear you've got a new job. How does it go? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3.2 Put the verb in the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

1. Let's go out. It isn't raining (not / rain) now.
2. Julia is very good at languages. She speaks (speak) four languages very well.
3. Hurry up! Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for you.
4. "\_\_\_\_\_ (you / listen) to the radio?" "No, you can turn it off."
5. "\_\_\_\_\_ (you / listen) to the radio every day?" "No, just occasionally."
6. The Nile River \_\_\_\_\_ (flow) into the Mediterranean.
7. The river \_\_\_\_\_ (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
8. We usually \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / grow) any.
9. "How is your English?" "Not bad. It \_\_\_\_\_ (improve) slowly."
10. Matt is in San Francisco right now. He \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at the Pelton Hotel. He \_\_\_\_\_ (always / stay) there when he's in San Francisco.
11. Can we stop walking soon? I \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to feel tired.
12. "Do you know how to drive?" "I \_\_\_\_\_ (learn). My father \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me."
13. Usually I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) work at 5:00, but this week I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) until 6:00 to earn some extra money.
14. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Chicago. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (your parents / live)?
15. Erica \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for a place to live. She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) with her sister until she finds a place.
16. "What \_\_\_\_\_ (your father / do)?" "He's an architect, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not / work) at the moment."
17. The train is never late. It \_\_\_\_\_ (always / leave) on time.
18. Jim is very messy. He \_\_\_\_\_ (always / leave) his things all over the place.

### 3.3 Finish B's sentences. Use *always -ing* (see Section B).

1. A: I'm afraid I've lost my key again.  
B: Not again! You're always losing your key.
2. A: The car has broken down again.  
B: That car is a pain. It \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A: Look! You made the same mistake again.  
B: Oh no, not again! I \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A: Oh, I forgot my books again.  
B: That's typical! You \_\_\_\_\_.

## Present Continuous and Simple Present (2)

### (I am doing and I do)

## A

We can use *continuous tenses* only for actions and happenings (they are eating / it is raining, etc.). Some verbs (for example, know and like) are not action verbs. You cannot say "I am knowing" or "they are liking"; you can only say I know, they like.

The following verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses:

like	love	hate	want	need	prefer	
know	realize	suppose	mean	understand	believe	remember
belong	contain	consist	depend	seem		

- I'm hungry. I want something to eat. (*not* I'm wanting)
- Do you understand what I mean?
- Kim doesn't seem very happy right now.

When **think** means "believe," do not use the continuous:

- What do you think (= believe) will happen? (*not* What are you thinking)
- but* ■ You look serious. What are you thinking about? (= What is going on in your mind?)
- I'm thinking of quitting my job. (= I am considering)

When **have** means "possess," etc., do not use the continuous (see Unit 16):

- We're enjoying our trip. We have a nice room in the hotel. (*not* We're having)
- but* ■ We're enjoying our trip. We're having a great time.

## B

See hear smell taste

We normally use the *simple present* (*not* continuous) with these verbs:

- Do you see that man over there? (*not* Are you seeing)
- This room smells. Let's open a window.

We often use **can + see/hear/smell/taste**:

- Listen! Can you hear something?

Note that you can say **I'm seeing** when the meaning is "having a meeting with" (especially in the future – see Unit 18A):

- I'm seeing the manager tomorrow morning.

## C

He is selfish and He is being selfish

He's **being** = He's behaving / He's acting. Compare:

- I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.  
(being selfish = behaving selfishly at the moment)
- but* ■ He never thinks about other people. He is very selfish. (*not* He is being)  
(= he is selfish generally, not only at the moment)

We use **am/is/are being** to say how somebody is behaving. It is not usually possible in other sentences:

- It's hot today. (*not* It is being hot)
- Sarah is very tired. (*not* is being tired)

## D

Look and feel

You can use simple present or continuous to say how somebody looks or feels now:

- You look good today. *or* You're looking good today.
- How do you feel now? *or* How are you feeling now?
- but* ■ I usually feel tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

# Exercises

### 4.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

1. I'm seeing the manager tomorrow morning. RIGHT
2. I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you believing in God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. This sauce is great. It's tasting really good. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I'm thinking this is your key. Am I right? \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.2 Look at the pictures. Use the words in parentheses to make sentences. (You should also study Unit 3 before you do this exercise.)

<p>1. (you / not / seem / very happy today) You <u>don't seem</u> very happy today.</p> 	<p>4. (dinner / smell / good)</p> 
<p>2. (what / you / do?) Be quiet! (I / think)</p> 	<p>5. Excuse me. (anybody / sit / here?) No, go ahead.</p> 
<p>3. (who / this umbrella / belong to?) I have no idea.</p> 	<p>6. Can I call you back in half an hour? (I / have / dinner)</p> 

### 4.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

1. Are you hungry? Do you want something to eat? (you / want)
2. Don't put the dictionary away. I \_\_\_\_\_ it. (use)
3. Don't put the dictionary away. I \_\_\_\_\_ it. (need)
4. Who is that man? What \_\_\_\_\_? (he / want)
5. Who is that man? Why \_\_\_\_\_ at us? (he / look)
6. George says he's 80 years old, but nobody \_\_\_\_\_ him. (believe)
7. She told me her name, but I \_\_\_\_\_ it now. (not / remember)
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ of selling my car. (think) Would you be interested in buying it?
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ you should sell your car. (think) You \_\_\_\_\_ it very often. (not / use)
10. Air \_\_\_\_\_ mainly of nitrogen and oxygen. (consist)

### 4.4 Complete the sentences using the most appropriate form of be, simple present (am/is/are) or present continuous (am/is/are being).

1. I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
2. Jack \_\_\_\_\_ very nice to me tonight. I wonder why.
3. You'll like Jill when you meet her. She \_\_\_\_\_ very nice.
4. You're usually very patient, so why \_\_\_\_\_ so unreasonable about waiting five more minutes?
5. Why isn't Sarah at work today? \_\_\_\_\_ sick?



# Answer Key to Exercises

In some of the exercises, you have to use your own ideas to write sentences, and sample answers are given in the key. If possible, check your answers with someone who speaks English well.

## UNIT 1

### 1.1

2. 'm looking (am looking)
3. 's getting (is getting)
4. 're staying (are staying)
5. 'm coming (am coming)
6. 's starting (is starting)
7. 're making (are making); 'm trying (am trying)
8. 's happening (is happening)

### 1.2

2. are you looking
3. 's she studying (is she studying)
4. Is anybody listening
5. Is it getting

### 1.3

3. 's having (is having)
4. 'm not eating (am not eating)
5. 's studying (is studying)
6. 're not / aren't speaking (are not speaking)

### 1.4

2. 'm training (am training)
3. Are you enjoying
4. 'm not working (am not working)
5. 'm trying (am trying)
6. 'm painting (am painting)
7. Are you doing
8. are helping

### 1.5

2. 's getting (is getting)
3. is changing
4. is rising *or* is increasing
5. 's getting (is getting)

## UNIT 2

### 2.1

2. drink
3. opens; closes
4. causes
5. live
6. take

7. connects

### 2.2

2. do the banks close
3. don't use (do not use)
4. do you do
5. takes; does it take
6. play; don't play (do not play)
7. does this word mean

### 2.3

3. rises
4. make
5. don't eat (do not eat)
6. doesn't believe (does not believe)
7. translates
8. doesn't tell (does not tell)
9. flows

### 2.4

2. Does; play tennis
3. Which newspaper do you read every day?
4. What does your brother do?
5. How often do you go to the movies?
6. Where does your mother live?
7. What time do you start work?

## UNIT 3

### 3.1

3. is trying
4. are; talking
5. RIGHT
6. 's getting (is getting)
7. RIGHT
8. 'm coming (am coming)
9. 's (is); going

### 3.2

3. 's waiting (is waiting)
4. Are you listening
5. Do you listen
6. flows
7. is flowing
8. grow; 're not / aren't growing (are not growing)
9. 's improving (is improving)
10. 's staying (is staying); always stays
11. 'm starting (am starting)
12. 'm learning (am learning); is teaching
13. finish; 'm working (am working)

14. live; do your parents live
15. 's looking (is looking); 's staying (is staying)
16. does your father do; 's not / isn't working (is not working)
17. always leaves
18. 's always leaving (is always leaving)

### 3.3

2. 's always breaking down (is always breaking down)
3. 'm always making (am always making) the same mistake
4. 're always forgetting (are always forgetting) your books

## UNIT 4

### 4.1

2. RIGHT
3. Do; believe
4. tastes
5. think

### 4.2

2. What are you doing?; I'm thinking. (I am thinking.)
3. Who does this umbrella belong to?
4. Dinner smells good.
5. Is anybody sitting here?
6. I'm having (I am having) dinner.

### 4.3

2. 'm using (am using)
3. need
4. does he want
5. is he looking
6. believes
7. don't remember (do not remember)
8. 'm thinking (am thinking)
9. think; don't use (do not use)
10. consists

### 4.4

2. is being
3. 's (is)
4. are you being
5. Is she

## UNIT 5

### 5.1

2. had
3. walked to work
4. took her [about] half an hour

# Present simple (I do) and present continuous (I am doing) (1)

## A

We use the present simple to describe things that are always true, or situations that exist now and, as far as we know, will go on indefinitely:

- It **takes** me five minutes to get to school.
- Trees **grow** more quickly in summer than in winter.
- Liz **plays** the violin brilliantly.

## B

To talk about particular actions or events that have begun but have not ended at the time of speaking, we use the present continuous:

- The car **isn't starting** again.
- 'Who **are you phoning?**' 'I'm **trying** to get through to Joan.'
- The shop is so inefficient that many customers **are taking** their business elsewhere.

We often use time expressions such as **at the moment**, **at present**, **currently**, **just**, and **still** to emphasise that the action or event is happening now:

- 'Have you done the shopping?' 'I'm **just going**.'

Notice that the action or event may not be going on at the time of speaking:

- The police **are talking** to a number of people about the robbery.

## C

We use the present simple to talk about habits or things that happen on a regular basis:

- I **leave** work at 5.30 most days.
- Each July we **go** to Turkey for a holiday.

However, when we describe repeated actions or events that are happening at or around the time of speaking, we use the present continuous:

- Why **are you jumping** up and down?
- I'm **hearing** a lot of good reports about your work these days.

We can use the present continuous or the present simple to describe something that we regularly do at a particular time. Compare:

- We usually **watch** the news on TV at 9.00. (= we start watching at 9.00)
- We're usually **watching** the news on TV at 9.00. (= we're already watching at 9.00)

## D

We use the present continuous to imply that a situation is or may be temporary. Compare:

- Banks **lend** money to make a profit. (this is what usually happens)
- Banks **are lending** more money (these days) to encourage businesses to expand. (implies a temporary arrangement)
- She **teaches** Maths in a school in Bonn. (a permanent arrangement)
- She's **teaching** Maths in a school in Bonn. (implies that this is not, or may not be, permanent)

## E

We often use the present simple with verbs that perform the action they describe:

- I **admit** I can't see as well as I used to. (= an admission)
- I **refuse** to believe that he didn't know the car was stolen. (= a refusal)



Other verbs like this (sometimes called *performative verbs*) include **accept**, **acknowledge**, **advise**, **apologise**, **assume**, **deny**, **guarantee**, **hope**, **inform**, **predict**, **promise**, **recommend**, **suggest**, **suppose**, **warn**.

We can use modals with performative verbs to make what we say more tentative or polite:

- I **would advise** you to arrive two hours before the flight leaves.
- I'm afraid I **have to inform** you that your application for funding has been turned down.

### 1.1 Suggest Use k

- 1 Eve
- 2 Fra
- 3 The
- 4 My
- 5 Bec
- 6 Bot
- 7 She
- 8 Phil  
He  
flue
- 9 'Ho  
th  
I.

### 1.2 Comple the pres any wor

say/tell/  
spend/re

is

1 She k  
At the

2 What

3 I .....  
advert

won't

4 The fis  
next w

count

5 I .....  
require

you, he

### 1.3 Complete If both an words out

1 'Shall I

2 Since I

going to

3 Alice ...

4 We usu

5 I .....

EXERCISES

1.1 Suggest a verb to complete each sentence. Use the present simple or present continuous. Use *h* to add any words outside the space, as in the example. (A & B)

- 1 Even though Sarah says she's feeling better, I think she <sup>is</sup> still losing weight.
- 2 Frank ..... stamps in his spare time. It's his hobby.
- 3 The airline currently ..... half-price tickets to Japan, but for one month only.
- 4 My mother ..... all the doors and windows before she goes to bed.
- 5 Because of the present threat of war, the best qualified people ..... the country.
- 6 Both ancient and recent records show that farmers ..... long hours.
- 7 She has an important project to finish by next week, so she ..... in the evenings at present.
- 8 Philip is an excellent linguist.  
He ..... six languages fluently.
- 9 'How are you getting on with the book?' 'At the moment I ..... chapter four.'

10

<p>Here we are in Switzerland again. We ..... in a very comfortable small hotel...</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
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1.2 Complete these texts with one of these sets of verbs, using each verb once only. Choose either the present simple or present continuous for all the missing verbs in each text. Use *h* to add any words outside the spaces. (A to E)

say/tell/do    talk/threaten/negotiate    recommend/warn/apologise  
 spend/recover/find    suggest/hope/promise

- 1 She <sup>is</sup> *h* only just recovering from the operation and <sup>is</sup> *h* still finding it difficult to move about. At the moment she is spending most of her time in bed.
- 2 What I ..... is that you ..... well in your job. Really! I ..... you the truth.
- 3 I ..... I'll do everything I can to help you find a flat, although I ..... that you also advertise in the local newspaper. It can be difficult to find accommodation, but I ..... it won't be too long before you've got somewhere.
- 4 The fishing unions ..... with their employers for a pay rise. If there is no agreement by next week, they ..... to strike and even ..... about blockading ports around the country.
- 5 I ..... for the delay in replying to your letter. To place an order for the book you require, I ..... that you telephone Mrs Jones in our sales department. I ..... you, however, that delivery time is likely to be about six weeks.

1.3 Complete the sentences with the verbs given, using the present continuous or the present simple. If both are possible write them both, and consider the difference in meaning. Use *h* to add any words outside the space. (C & D)

- 1 'Shall I phone at 6.00?' 'No, we normally ..... dinner at that time.' (cook)
- 2 Since I won the lottery, my telephone hasn't stopped ringing. People ..... to ask how I'm going to spend the money. (phone)
- 3 Alice ..... her mother in London most weekends. (see)
- 4 We usually ..... up at about 7.00. Couldn't you come an hour later? (get up)
- 5 I ..... swimming in the evenings to try to lose weight. (go)

# Present simple (I do) and present continuous (I am doing) (2)

**A**

We often prefer to use the present simple rather than the present continuous with verbs describing states:

- I really **enjoy** travelling.
- The group **currently consists of** five people, but we hope to get more members soon.



Other common state verbs include **agree, assume, believe, belong to, contain, cost, disagree, feel, hate, have, hope, know, like, look, love, own, prefer, realise, regret, resemble, smell, taste.**

However, we can use the present continuous with some state verbs when we want to emphasise that a situation is temporary, for a period of time around the present. Compare:

- I **consider** him to be extremely fortunate. (This is my view) *and*
- I'm **considering** taking early retirement. (This is something I'm thinking about now)

- The children **love** having Jean stay with us. (They love it when Jean stays) *and*
- The children **are loving** having Jean stay with us. (Jean is staying with us now)

With some verbs used to describe a temporary state (e.g. **ache, feel, hurt, look (= seem)**), there is little difference in meaning when we use the present simple and present continuous:

- What's the matter with Bill? He **looks / is looking** awful.

When **have** has a non-state meaning – for example when it means 'eat', 'undergo', 'take' or 'hold' – we can use the present continuous:

- 'What's that terrible noise?' 'The neighbours **are having** a party.'

• We use the present continuous when we talk about changes, developments, and trends:

- The growing number of visitors **is damaging** the footpaths.
- I'm **beginning** to realise how difficult it is to be a teacher.

**B**

When we tell a story or joke we often describe the main events using the present (*or past*) simple and longer, background events using the present (*or past*) continuous:

- She **goes (or went)** up to this man and **looks (or looked)** straight into his eyes. She's **carrying (or was carrying)** a bag full of shopping...

We can also use the present simple and present continuous like this in commentaries (for example, on sports events) and in giving instructions:

- King **serves** to the left hand court and Adams **makes** a wonderful return. She's **playing** magnificent tennis in this match...
- You **hold** the can in one hand. Right, you're **holding** it in one hand; now you **take off** the lid with the other.



**C**

When we want to emphasise that something is done repeatedly, we can use the present continuous with words like **always, constantly, continually, or forever**. Often we do this when we want to show that we are unhappy about it, including our own behaviour:

- They're **constantly having** parties until the early hours of the morning.

We use the past continuous (see Unit 6) in the same way:

- He **was forever including** me in his crazy schemes.

**D**

The present simple is used to report what we have heard or what we have read:

- This newspaper article **explains** why unemployment has been rising so quickly.

We also use the present simple in spoken English in phrases such as **I gather, I hear, I see, and I understand** to introduce news that we have heard, read or seen (e.g. on television):

- I **gather** you're worried about the new job?
- The Prince **is coming** to visit, and I **hear** he's very rich.

4

Present simple and present continuous (1) ⇒ UNIT 1    Present continuous for the future ⇒ UNIT 12

Present simple for the future ⇒ UNIT 13    Present simple in reporting ⇒ UNIT 46

EXI

2.1

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Cho

- a  
b
- a  
b
- a  
b

4 a

- b
- a
- a
- b

2.2

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- A n
- No

2.3

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- A: C
- A: Tl
- A: It
- A: I h

2.4

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SC

Example

EXERCISES

2.1 Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair. Choose the present continuous if possible; if not, use the present simple. (A)

- 1 a It ..... us a fortune at the moment to send our daughter to dance classes.  
b It ..... a fortune to fly first class to Japan.
- 2 a I ..... sitting down at the end of a long day and reading a good book.  
b It's a wonderful book. I ..... every moment of it.
- 3 a We've always wanted a house in the country, but we ..... on where it should be.  
b When they agree with each other on so many important issues, I can't understand why they ..... now on this relatively minor matter.
- 4 a With growing concerns about the environment, people ..... to use recycled paper products.  
b He doesn't like publicity, and ..... to stay firmly in the background.
- 5 a 'Can I speak to Dorothy?' 'She ..... a shower. Can I take a message?'  
b My brother ..... three children, all girls.
- 6 a Although he ..... three cars, all of them are extremely old.  
b In the north of the country, fewer and fewer people ..... the houses they live in.

2.2 Choose the present simple or present continuous for the verbs in these texts. (B)

- 1 Fletcher ..... (pass) to Coles who ..... (shoot) just over the bar. United ..... (attack) much more in this half...
- 2 A man ..... (come) home late one night after the office Christmas party. His wife ..... (wait) for him, and she ..... (say) to him...
- 3 Now that the rice ..... (cook) you ..... (chop up) the carrots and tomatoes and you ..... (put) them in a dish...

2.3 Expand one of the sets of notes below to complete each dialogue. (C)

continually/change/mind    forever/moan/work    forever/ask me/money  
constantly/criticise/driving    always/complain/handwriting

- 1 A: I can't read this. B: You're always complaining about my handwriting.
- 2 A: Can I borrow £10? B: You're...
- 3 A: That was a dangerous thing to do! B: You're...
- 4 A: I think I'll stay here after all. B: You're...
- 5 A: I had a bad day at the office again. B: You're...

2.4 How might you report the news in these headlines using the phrases given? (D)

**MORE CASH FOR HEALTH SERVICE**

**QUAKE HITS CENTRAL IRAN**

**QUEEN TO VISIT INDIA IN SPRING**

**SCIENTISTS FIND BRIGHTEST STAR**

I see...  
I understand...  
I gather...  
It says here...

Example: I see that the Queen's going to visit India next spring.

# Key to exercises

## UNIT 1

### 1.1

Some possible verbs are given.

- collects
- is (or are) currently offering/selling
- locks/shuts
- are leaving/deserting
- work
- is working
- speaks
- I'm reading/writing
- are staying

### 1.2

- I'm saying...are doing...  
I'm telling...
- promise...suggest...hope
- are negotiating...are threatening...are even talking
- apologise...recommend...warn

### 1.3

- cook or are (normally) cooking. 'Cook' implies that we start cooking at 6.00; 'are cooking' implies that we are cooking around this time.
- are phoning. More likely than 'phone' as this seems to be a temporary situation.
- sees. More likely than 'is seeing' as 'most weekends' suggests a long-lasting situation.
- get up or are getting up. 'Get up' implies that 7.00 is the time at which we get up (e.g. that the alarm clock goes off); 'are getting up' implies that we are in the process of getting up around that time.
- go or am going. 'Go' implies a regular, possibly permanent, arrangement (perhaps I need to do this regular exercise to prevent weight gain); 'am going' implies a more temporary arrangement (perhaps once I have lost weight I will stop swimming in the evening).

## UNIT 2

### 2.1

Some possible verbs are given.

- a is costing ('at the moment' emphasises that this is a temporary situation);

b costs

- a love/enjoy; b am loving/enjoying
- a disagree; b are disagreeing ('disagree' is also possible)
- a are preferring ('prefer' is also possible); b prefers
- a is having; b has
- a owns; b are owning ('own' is also possible)

### 2.2

- passes...shoots...are attacking
- comes...is waiting...says
- is cooking...chop up...put

### 2.3

- You're forever asking me for money.
- You're constantly criticising my driving.
- You're continually changing your mind.
- You're forever moaning about (your) work.

### 2.4

Example answers:

I understand that the health service is going to get more money.

It says here that scientists have found the brightest star.

I gather Iran's been hit by an earthquake again.

## UNIT 3

### 3.1

- appeared
- have reached
- has disappeared
- agreed
- wrote
- have solved
- continued
- moved

### 3.2

Most likely verbs are suggested.

- a has risen; b rose
- a wore; b have worn
- a has survived; b survived
- a has been; b was
- a have stayed; b stayed
- a saw; b have never seen

### 3.3

- (ii) 'has agreed' implies that this is something that happened recently

2 (iii)

3 (iii)

4 (i)

5 (i)

6 (iii)

7 (ii) 'has gone' implies that he is still in town

8 (i)

9 (ii) 'have worked' implies that I'm still working there

## UNIT 4

### 4.1

- have discovered
- has (or have) developed
- invented
- has (or have) produced
- discovered

### 4.2

Most likely verbs are given.

- a have asked; b asked
- a worked; b has worked
- a have enjoyed; b enjoyed
- a received; b have received
- a has sold; b sold
- a have regretted; b regretted

### 4.3

- ✓
- ✓
- has now been
- ✓
- ✓
- has fallen
- took
- was done
- were introduced
- sold
- ✓
- have cycled
- have (or has) done
- ✓

## UNIT 5

### 5.1

- ✓
- knew
- has already done
- remembered
- ✓ ('did you meet her before' is also possible. Present perfect simple implies 'at any time up to now; past simple implies 'on another particular occasion')