Present Simple vs Present Continuous

GRAMMAR PRACTICE WORKSHEET • A2-B1 • 50 QUESTIONS + ANSWER KEY

Understand routines and facts, describe what is happening now, and practise common stative verbs.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quick guide: which tense should I use?

PRESENT SIMPLE

Form: I/you/we/they work; he/she/it works

Use: habits, facts and states

She walks to work every day.

Questions: Do/Does + subject + base verb?

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Form: am/is/are + verb-ing

Use: actions now, temporary changes

She is walking to work today.

Questions: Am/Is/Are + subject + verb-ing?

Remember: Stative verbs such as *know*, *want*, *need*, *believe* and *understand* are not normally used in the continuous form. Some verbs change meaning: *I have a car*, but *I am having lunch*.

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Use the present simple or present continuous form of each verb in brackets.

01. My sister _____ (take) the train to work every weekday.

02. Listen! Someone _____ (knock) at the door.

03. We usually _____ (have) lunch at one o'clock.

04. I _____ (not / wear) a coat today because it is warm.

05. My parents _____ (live) in Bristol.

06. Look! The children _____ (run) towards the playground.

07. Tom _____ (not / drink) coffee.

08. Why _____ (you / smile) right now?

09. The shop _____ (open) at nine every morning.

10. Our teacher _____ (explain) the exercise at the moment.

Forms and stative verbs

Write complete sentences, then choose the most natural verb form.

Exercise 2: Questions and negatives

Rewrite each sentence as instructed. Remember the auxiliary verbs and word order.

01. Marta works from home. (Make negative)

02. They are waiting for the bus. (Make a question)

03. Your brother plays the guitar. (Make a question)

04. I am watching TV. (Make negative)

05. Leo studies French. (Make negative)

06. You are listening to me. (Make a question)

07. The children go to school by bike. (Make negative)

08. She is writing an email. (Make a question)

Exercise 3: Stative or action verb?

Circle the correct form. Think about what the verb means in this sentence.

01. I (know / am knowing) the answer.

02. This soup (tastes / is tasting) delicious.

03. Please be quiet. I (think / am thinking) about the problem.

04. She (has / is having) two brothers.

05. We (do not understand / are not understanding) this question.

06. They (have / are having) dinner in the garden right now.

07. He (believes / is believing) that the plan will work.

08. The chef (tastes / is tasting) the soup to check the seasoning.

Choose and correct

Pay attention to time expressions and the meaning of the verb.

Exercise 4: Which tense fits the context?

Circle the correct answer in each sentence.

01. Nadia (works / is working) in a bank. It is her permanent job.

02. Nadia (works / is working) in a café this month while her office is being renovated.

03. I (read / am reading) for twenty minutes before bed every night.

04. I (read / am reading) a brilliant detective novel at the moment.

05. Water (boils / is boiling) at 100°C at sea level.

06. Look at the pot! The water (boils / is boiling) over.

07. They (do not need / are not needing) extra chairs for the meeting.

08. House prices (rise / are rising) rapidly at the moment.

Exercise 5: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence contains one grammar mistake. Write the correct sentence on the line.

01. He is play football at the moment.

02. She do not drive to work.

03. Are you knowing the answer?

04. My father work in a hospital.

05. We are have a new car.

06. It rain heavily right now.

07. They does not usually eat breakfast.

08. She is not likes tea.

Everyday English practice

Put the grammar to work in a conversation and in your own writing.

Exercise 6: Complete the conversation

Use the correct present simple or present continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

A: What (1) _____ (you / do) at the moment?

B: I (2) _____ (make) dinner.

A: What (3) _____ (you / usually / cook) on Wednesdays?

B: I usually (4) _____ (prepare) pasta, but tonight I (5) _____ (try) a new recipe.

A: (6) _____ (your sister / help) you?

B: Not today. She (7) _____ (study) for an exam.

A: (8) _____ (she / like) cooking?

Bonus: Make it personal

Write your own sentences. Use both tenses and check your verb forms.

A. Write two things you usually do at weekends.

B. Write two things you are doing differently this week.

Self-check: Did you add *-s* after he/she/it? Did you use *am/is/are* before *-ing*? Did you keep stative verbs in the simple form?

Answer key

Contractions and full forms are both acceptable unless the task specifies otherwise.

Exercise 1 · Complete the sentences

01. takes
02. is knocking
03. have
04. am not wearing
05. live
06. are running
07. does not drink / doesn't drink
08. are you smiling
09. opens
10. is explaining

Exercise 2 · Questions and negatives

01. Marta doesn't work from home.
02. Are they waiting for the bus?
03. Does your brother play the guitar?
04. I'm not watching TV.
05. Leo doesn't study French.
06. Are you listening to me?
07. The children don't go to school by bike.
08. Is she writing an email?

Exercise 3 · Stative verbs

01. know
02. tastes
03. am thinking
04. has
05. do not understand
06. are having
07. believes
08. is tasting

Exercise 4 · Choose the tense

01. works
02. is working
03. read
04. am reading
05. boils
06. is boiling
07. do not need
08. are rising

Exercise 5 · Error correction

01. He is playing football at the moment.
02. She doesn't drive to work.
03. Do you know the answer?
04. My father works in a hospital.
05. We have a new car.
06. It is raining heavily right now.
07. They don't usually eat breakfast.
08. She doesn't like tea.

Exercise 6 · Conversation

01. are you doing
02. am making
03. do you usually cook
04. prepare
05. am trying
06. Is your sister helping
07. is studying
08. Does she like

Bonus writing: Answers will vary. Accept natural examples with the correct tense and verb form.