

Lecture 01: Tenses Overview

a. Present simple Vs Present Continuous

1. Present simple

The present simple tense is used to express general truths, habitual actions, or facts that are always true. For example, "I work in an office" or "The sun rises in the east."

Affirmative Statements: Subject + base form of the verb (+ -s or -es for third person singular).

Example: "She works hard every day."

Negative Statements: Subject + do not/does not + base form of the verb.

Example: "I do not like coffee."

Questions: (Wh-) Question word + do/does + subject + base form of the verb.

Yes/No Question: do/does + subject + base form of the verb

Example: "Do you enjoy reading?"

Usage: For general truths or facts: "Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius."

Habits or routines: "I jog every morning."

Permanent situations: "She lives in London."

Third Person Singular: Verbs ending in -s, -sh, -ch, -x, or -o, add -es:

Example: "He watches TV every evening."

Time Expressions: Often used with adverbs of frequency like "always," "usually," "sometimes," etc.

Remember, the present simple is not used for actions happening right now; that is the role of the present continuous tense.

Here are examples illustrating the present simple tense:

Affirmative Statements:

I play tennis every weekend.

The sun rises in the east.

Dogs bark when they are excited.

Negative Statements:

She does not eat meat. –

We do not have class on Saturdays.

It does not snow in this region.

Questions:

Do you like chocolate? –

Does he speak Spanish? –

What do they usually do on weekends?

Usage:

General truths: "The Earth revolves around the sun."

Habits or routines: "She reads a book before bedtime."

Permanent situations: "He owns a small business."

Third Person Singular:

He cooks delicious meals.

She washes her car every Sunday.

It fixes itself automatically.

Time Expressions:

I always brush my teeth before bed. –

They rarely go to the movies. –

The train usually arrives on time.

These examples showcase how the present simple tense is used in various contexts.

2. Present continuous

The present continuous tense, also known as the present progressive, is a verb tense in English that is used to describe actions happening at the moment of speaking or actions occurring around the current time. It is also used for temporary actions and ongoing activities.

Structure: The present continuous tense is formed using the present participle (the -ing form of the verb) along with the auxiliary verb "am," "is," or "are," depending on the subject.

Example: I am reading a book. (Action happening now)

She is working on a project. (Action in progress)

They are playing soccer in the park. (Ongoing activity)

Negative Form: To form the negative, use "am not," "is not," or "are not" with the present participle.

Example: "He is not watching TV right now."

Question Form: In questions, the auxiliary verb is moved to the beginning of the sentence

(Wh) question.

Example: What are you doing?

Yes/No question

Example: "Are you coming to the party?"

Usage: Actions happening now: "I am typing a message."

Ongoing activities: "They are studying for exams."

Future Plan: "She is staying with us for a week."

The present continuous tense emphasizes the dynamic nature of an action or situation that is occurring around the time of speaking.

Exercise 01: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in either present simple or present continuous.

1. Every morning, Sarah (go) _____ for a run in the park.
2. At the moment, they (watch) _____ their favorite TV show.
3. John usually (work) _____ from 9 to 5.
4. Look! The children (play) _____ in the garden right now.
5. My sister (study) _____ for her exams this week.
6. Water (boil) _____ at 100 degrees Celsius.
7. Sorry, I can't talk. I (have) _____ dinner with my family.

Exercise 02: Choose the correct verb tense (present simple or present continuous) to complete each sentence.

1. Lisa usually (read/reads) _____ a book before bedtime.
2. Right now, the kids (play/playing) _____ in the backyard.
3. I (visit/am visiting) _____ my grandparents next weekend.
4. The train (arrive/is arriving) _____ at 3:30 PM.
5. We always (go/are going) _____ to the beach in the summer.
6. Sarah (study/is studying) _____ French for her trip to Paris.
7. The sun (set/sets) _____ in the west

Homework:

Exercise 1

Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple present or present continuous).

1. Look! He (leave) _____ the house.
2. Quiet please! I (write) _____ a test.
3. She usually (walk) _____ to school.
4. But look! Today she (go) _____ by bike.
5. Every Sunday we (go) _____ to see my grandparents.
6. He often (go) _____ to the cinema.
7. We (play) _____ Monopoly at the moment.
8. The child seldom (cry) _____.
9. I (not / do) _____ anything at the moment.
10. (Watch / he) _____ the news regularly?

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences (Simple Present or Present Continuous).

1. This (be) _____ Marc.
2. He (wear) _____ a t-shirt and shorts today.
3. He (eat) _____ an apple at the moment.
4. Marc (like) _____ fruits and vegetables.
5. He (eat) _____ some every day.
6. Marc (know) _____ that apples (be) _____ good for his health.

Exercise 3

Complete the sentences (Simple Present or Present Continuous).

1. These (be) _____ Linda and Jeff.
2. Linda (be) _____ Jeff's little sister.
3. At the moment, the two kids (sit) _____ on the floor.
4. Jeff (hold) _____ a book right now, he (read) _____ a story to Linda.
5. Look! Linda (listen) _____ carefully and she (look) _____ at the beautiful pictures.
6. Linda (love) _____ Jeff's stories.
7. He (read) _____ a story to her every day.
8. Jeff sometimes even (write) _____ his own stories
9. I (be) _____ very busy today.
10. At noon I (visit) _____ my friend Tanya.
12. We (want) _____ to have lunch together