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**University of Bejaia**  
**French Department**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year students**

**Groups: 01+02**

**Module: English**

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**Present tenses**

→ Most English verbs have two present tenses. Forms like those that I wait, she thinks are called present simple; forms like I am waiting or she's thinking are called present continuous. The two present tenses refer to different kinds of time.

**Present simple**

■ Use

→ We use the present simple to talk about permanent situations, or about things that happen regularly, repeatedly (habits) or all the time.

Examples: Water boils at 100° Celsius.

I play tennis every Saturday.

Sophie works in a bank.

Affirmative	Question	Negative
I work	Do I work ?	I don't work
You work	Do you work ?	You don't work
He/she/it works	Does he/she/it work?	He/she/it does not work
We work	Do we work ?	We don't work
They work	Do they work ?	They do not work

→ He refers to a male. She refers to a female. It refers to an animal, a vegetal or an object.

→ Add -s to the infinitive to form the third person singular of most verbs.

Example: to work → she works.

→ Change y to i and add -es to form the third person singular of the verbs ending in consonant + y.

Examples: to cry → he cries; to hurry → she hurries.

→ Add -es to the infinitive to form the third person singular of the verbs ending in -s, -z, -ch, -sh or -x.

Examples: to miss → she misses; to watch → he watches; to buzz → it buzzes; to fix → he fixes.

## Present continuous

### ■ Use

→ We use the present continuous (or present progressive) to talk about actions that are happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not complete. We also use the present continuous for temporary situations.

Examples: The water is boiling, can you turn it off?

My brother is living at home for the moment.

Rachel wants to live in France, so she is learning French.

Look! It is snowing.

### ■ Construction

→ You need to use BE in the present simple to form the present continuous.

Affirmative	Question	Negative
I am working	Am I working?	I am not working
You are working	Are you working?	You are not working
He/she/it is working	Is he /she /it working?	He/she/it is not working
We are working	Are we working?	You are not working
They are working	Are they working?	They are not working