

## **Lesson 02 : Tenses**

### **PRESENT**

**Present Simple**

**Present Progressive**

**Present Perfect**

**Present Perfect Progressive**

### **PAST**

**Past Simple**

**Past Progressive**

**Past Perfect**

**Past Perfect Progressive**

### **FUTURE**

**Future SIMPLE**

**Future Progressive**

**Future Perfect**

**Future Perfect Progressive**

**Objective of lesson 02:**

**To use appropriately the tenses**

**To distinguish between them**

## Introduction : The two present tenses

Most English verbs have two present tenses. Forms like *I wait, she thinks* are called 'simple present' or 'present simple'; forms like *I am waiting* or *she's thinking* are called 'present progressive' or 'present continuous'. The two present tenses are used in different ways.

### Simple Present

#### A / Form

##### a) Positive statements

I / we / you / they eat chocolate.

He / she / it eats chocolate.

##### b) Negative statements

I / we / you / they do not eat chocolate.

He / she / it does not eat chocolate.

##### c) Questions

Do I / we / you / they eat chocolate?

Does he / she / it eat chocolate?

##### d) Short answers

Yes, I / we / you / they do.

No, I / we / you / they do not.

Yes, He / she / it does.

No, He / she / it does not.

✚ Contracted negatives : *I don't work, he doesn't work etc.*

✚ Negative questions : *do I not work? or don't I work? etc.*

#### Spelling of the third person singular forms

The regular spelling of the -s inflection is "s".

Examples:            run / runs                      work/ works                      revere/ reverses

**Here are additional spelling rules for particular cases:**

1. If the verb ends in **-s, -z, -x -ch, or -sh**, add **-es** to the infinitive.

Examples:            Misses,            buzzes,            fixes,            watches,            pushes.

2. For some verbs ending in **-o**, add **-es** to the infinitive.

Examples:            go / goes,            do/does

**Derivatives** with **go** and **do** also have **-es**: examples: *undergo/ undergoes, overdo/ overdoes*

3. If the verb ends in **a consonant plus 'y'**, **change the 'y' to 'i' and add -es**.

Examples:            worry/ worries,            fly/flies,            deny/ denies,            hurry/ hurries.

If a vowel precedes the final 'y', the spelling is regular (add -s):

Examples:            Play/ plays,            annoy/annoys.

#### Pronunciation of third person singular forms

The pronunciation of the-(e)s ending depends on the sound that comes before it. It follows exactly the same rules as the pronunciation of plural (e)s.

1. If the singular ends with the sounds : /s/ , /z/ , /f/ , /tʃ/ , /ʒ/ , /dʒ/, the final -s is pronounced /ɪz/.

Examples:            passes,            buzzes,            rushes,            catches,            camouflages,            judges.

2. If the verb ends with a vowel sound or a voiced consonant, the final -s is pronounced /z/.

Examples:        *pays,            pursues,            drives,            builds*

3. If the verb ends with a voiceless consonant, the final –s is pronounced /s/.

Examples:        *cooks,    converts,    helps,    works.*

**B/ Use** : we use the present simple:

1. *With routine, habitual or regular repeated actions ( often with adverbs of frequency like : always, often, sometimes, never, every Saturday morning, once a week)*

Examples:        We go to Greece for our holidays every summer.

                      She doesn't drink coffee after midday.

                      I never get up before nine o'clock on Sunday.

                      How often do you go to the gym?        He usually leaves work at 6 o'clock.

2. *When we are talking about something that is true in general or about permanent situations; situations that exist now, and, as far as we know, will go on indefinitely. (for the foreseeable immediate future)*

Examples:        Alice works for an insurance company.

                      Liz plays the violin brilliantly.                I don't speak Chinese.

                      It takes me five minutes to get to school.

                      In Canada, most stores close at 6: 00 p.m.

3. *With factual statements or scientific facts.(a universal generalization that is valid forever)*

Examples:        Bees make honey.

                      The planets revolve around the sun.

                      Water freezes at 0° Centigrade.

                      Half plus half equals one.

4. *To ask for and give directions, instructions, and demonstrations.*

Examples:        'How do I get to the station?' 'You go straight on to the traffic lights, then you turn left,...'

                      First you put the cassette in the machine.

                      First I put a lump of butter into a frying pan and light the gas; then while the butter's melting I break three eggs into a bowl, like this ...

5. *When we are talking about the future as expressed in timetables, schedules, official events, regulations, and programmes.*

Examples:        The train leaves at 5.30 this afternoon.

                      Do classes begin at the same time as last year?

                      The Prime Minister starts his official visit to China tomorrow.

                      I start my new job tomorrow.

6. In time clauses with a future meaning (after: when, as soon as, until, after, before, etc.) and conditional sentences.

Examples: I'll phone her when/ as soon as I get home.  
Say 'hello' to Tim if you see him.  
I'm not going to speak to him until he apologizes.

7. In live commentaries (for example, on sports events) when the report takes place at the same time as the action.

Examples: Taylor passes the ball to Morrison, Morrison to Romero, Romero runs towards goal and he shoots- and it's a goal!!  
King serves to the left-hand court and Adams makes a wonderful return. She's playing magnificent tennis in this match...

8. In formal letters.

Examples: I enclose a copy of my curriculum vitae.  
I look forward to hearing from you.

9. In phrases such as It says here, I hear, I gather, I see, I understand, and they say, (someone) says, (someone) tells me to introduce news that we have heard, read, seen (e.g. on television), or been told. ( we can also use past tenses : it said here, I heard, etc.)

Examples: Jane tells me you're thinking of emigrating.  
Professor Otto is at the conference and I hear she's an excellent speaker.  
I gather you're worried about the new job.

10. In news paper headlines to talk about events that have recently happened.

Examples: QUAKE HITS CENTRAL IRAN.  
FOREIGN MINISTER RESIGNS.  
SCIENTISTS FIND BRIGHTEST STAR.

11. Can be used to refer to the contents and summaries of books, films, newspapers, plays, stories, etc.

Examples: In Act I, Hamlet sees the ghost of his father. The ghost tells him ...  
Thompson gives a list of the largest European companies in Chapter Six.  
At the beginning of the book, three men find \$4 million in crashed plane.  
In the film, Joan Smithson takes the role of a private detective.

12. When telling stories and jokes in informal spoken English to create the impression that events are happening now. This can make them more direct and exciting and hold people's attention.

Examples: She goes up to this man and looks straight into his eyes. He's not wearing his glasses, and he doesn't recognize her ...  
This man's playing golf when a kangaroo bounds up to him, grabs his club, and hits his ball about half a mile.

13. In narration, to make the narration seem more immediate and dramatic.

14. With 'state' verbs which are not normally used in continuous forms: e.g. be, have, depend, know, think, understand, disagree, like, want, hear, love, see, smell, taste.

Examples: I don't have much money.  
Does she understand?  
I'm sorry, but I disagree completely.  
That perfume smells too strong.

15. With verbs which perform the action they describe ( sometimes called performatives) like: admit, acknowledge, advise, beg, confess, congratulate, declare, deny, forbid, guarantee, name, order, permit, predict, promise, refuse, remind, request, thank, warn, apologize, suggest.

Examples: I admit I can't see as well as I used to.  
We apologize for not replying earlier.  
I promise never to smoke again.  
I swear that I will tell the truth ...  
He denies the accusation.

**Exercises**

**Exercise 1. Use one of the following verbs to complete these sentences. Sometimes you need the negative.**

Believe eat flow go grow make rise tell translate take place

1. The earth ..... round the sun.
2. Rice ..... in Britain.
3. The sun ..... in the east.
4. Bees .....honey.
5. Vegetarians.....meat.
6. An atheist .....in God.
7. An interpreter..... from one language into another.
8. A liar is someone who.....the truth.
9. The river Amazon .....into the Atlantic Ocean.
10. The Olympic Games .....every four years.

**Exercise 2. 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..... ?
2. Perhaps Liz's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask her.  
.....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 her.  
.....?
5. You know that Liz goes to cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
.....?
6. You don't know where Liz's mother lives. Ask her.  
.....?

**Exercise 3. Complete using one of the following: I apologise, I insist, I promise, I recommend, I suggest**

1. It's a nice day..... we go out for a walk.
2. I won't tell anybody what you said. ....
3. (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal. ....
4. for what I said about you. It wasn't true and I shouldn't have said it.
5. The new restaurant in Hill Street is very good.....it.

**Exercise 4. Ten sentences are wrong and two sentences are right. Correct the mistake when necessary.**

1. David never take the bus to work.....
2. Go you to the office every day? .....
3. My car don't work when it is cold.....
4. What time the film starts?..... ?
5. Ben's sister don't speak French but Ben do. ....
6. How many eggs you want for breakfast ? .....
7. Does the 9.30 train stop at every station ? .....
8. What does do your father? .....
9. I not write many letters. I usually use the telephone. ....
10. What Sue usually have for lunch? .....
11. How much do these apples cost? .....
12. Charlie plays basketball but he doesn't enjoys it. ....

**Exercise 5. Complete the conversation. Put in the present simple forms.**

Rita: (►) Do you like (you / like) football, Tom?

Tom: (►) / love (I / love) it. I'm a United fan. (1) .....(I / go) to all their games.

Nick usually (2) ..... (come) with me. And (3).....  
(we / travel) to away games, too. Why (4) .....(you / not / come) to a match some time?

Rita: I'm afraid football (5) .....(not / make) sense to me — men running after a ball. Why (6).....(you / take) it so seriously?

Tom: It's a wonderful game. (7).....(I / love) it. United are my whole life.

Rita: How much (8).....(it / cost) to buy the tickets and pay for the travel?

Tom: A lot. (9) ..... (I / not / know) exactly how much. But (10).....(that / not / matter) to me.

(11) ..... (I / not / want) to do anything else. (12) .....(that / annoy) you?

Rita: No, (13) ..... (it / not / annoy) me. I just (14).....(find) it a bit sad.

**Exercise 6. Complete the sentences by putting in the verbs. Use the present simple and say why it should be used in each case. Work hear belong land cost believe beg eat**

1. Sarah often..... late at the office.
2. The computer ..... to Emma.
3. These plates ..... \$ 20 each.
4. I..... it's the right thing to do.
5. I..... that you have been promoted. Congratulations!
6. Cows..... grass.
7. I..... you to keep this a secret.
8. The plane ..... at 5.30 P.M.

**Exercise 7. Complete this newspaper story about Lord Stonebury. Put in the correct simple present of these**

**verbs:** go(4), have (3), live (2), get, meet, own, play, read, spend, talk.

Lord Stonebury is 28 years old. He..... in Belgravia in London's West End. He's very rich, and he..... the company Office Blocks International. Every morning the

young Lord ..... breakfast in bed and ..... the newspapers. He ..... up at ten o'clock and usually ..... for a walk in Hyde Park. He ..... lunch at his club. He sometimes ..... the directors of OBI, and they ..... about the company's plans.

In the afternoon Lord Stonebury and his friends sometimes ..... golf. Then they ..... a few drinks. Or sometimes he and a friend ..... for a drive in his sports car.

After dinner Lord Stonebury ..... to a night club with one of his friends. They ..... home at about two o'clock.

In the winter the young Lord ..... in Monte Carlo. And he ..... his summer holidays in the West Indies.

**Exercise 8.** Write the story of a typical day in your life.

### Exercises

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12. Rice .....doesn't grow.....in Britain.
13. The sun .....rises ..... in the east.
14. Bees .....make.....honey.
15. Vegetarians .....don't eat ..... meat.
16. An atheist .....doesn't believe..... in God.
17. An interpreter .....translates .....from one language into another.
18. A liar is someone who .....doesn't tell ..... the truth.
19. The river Amazon .....flows ..... into the Atlantic Ocean.
20. The Olympic Games .....take place ..... every four years.

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How often.....do you play tennis..... ?
8. Perhaps Liz's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask her.  
does.....your sister.....play  
tennis..... ?
9. You know that Liz reads a newspaper every day. You want to know which one. Ask her.  
...which newspaper do you read..... ?
10. You know that Liz's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask her.  
What does your brother do? OR what's your brother's job?
11. You know that Liz goes to cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
How often do you go to the cinema..... ?
12. You don't know where Liz's mother lives. Ask her.  
Where does your mother live..... ?

Exercise 3. Complete using one of the following: I apologise, I insist, I promise, I recommend, I suggest

6. It's a nice day. ....I...suggest..... we go out for a walk.
7. I won't tell anybody what you said. ...I promise.....
8. (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal. ....I insist.....

9. ....I apologise .....for what I said about you. It wasn't true and I shouldn't have said it.

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14. Go you to the office every day? .....do you go to the .office everyday. .... ?

15. My car don't work when it is cold. ....doesn't work. ....

16. What time the film starts? .....does the film start ..... ?

17. Ben's sister don't speak French but Ben do. ....doesn't speak French but Ben does. ....

18. How many eggs you want for breakfast ? .....do you want for breakfast ..... ?

19. Does the 9.30 train stop at every station ?

.....?

20. What does do your father? .....what does your father do ..... ?

21. I not write many letters. I usually use the telephone. Don't write. .... ?

22. What Sue usually have for lunch? .....what does Sue usually have ..... ?

23. How much do these apples cost?

..... ?

24. Charlie plays basketball but he doesn't enjoys it .....doesn't enjoy. .... ?

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13. I hear that you gave been promoted. congratulations!

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