

## Present Continuous: Versus Simple Present

**FORM:**

**Simple Present:** subject + base verb + (“-s” or “-es”)  
**Present Continuous:** subject + be (am, is, are) + verb + “-ing”

**USE:**

The Simple Present and the Present Continuous have different uses.

THE SIMPLE PRESENT is used:	THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS is used:																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to talk about habits and repeated actions.</li> </ul> <p>e.g. <i>Susan usually <b>cleans</b> her room on Saturdays.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to talk about actions in progress now.</li> </ul> <p>e.g. <i>Susan <b>is cleaning</b> her room now.</i></p>																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to talk about things that are true in general.</li> </ul> <p>e.g. <i>Working parents <b>bring</b> their children to daycare.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for actions that are temporary, not habitual.</li> </ul> <p>e.g. <i>Simon <b>is bringing</b> his kids to daycare today.</i></p>																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when the verb “<b>have</b>” means <u>possess</u> or <u>own</u> something. It is a non-action verb.</li> </ul> <p>e.g. <i>I <b>have</b> two children.</i>  <i>She <b>has</b> a new car.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when the verb “<b>have</b>” is an action verb, it <u>does not</u> mean <u>possess</u>.</li> </ul> <p>e.g. <i>I <b>am having</b> my test on Friday.</i>  <i>She <b>is having</b> lunch in the park.</i></p>																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with certain time expressions:</li> </ul> <table> <tr> <td>always</td> <td>rarely</td> </tr> <tr> <td>often</td> <td>never</td> </tr> <tr> <td>usually</td> <td>every day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>sometimes</td> <td>once a week</td> </tr> <tr> <td>seldom</td> <td>on the weekends</td> </tr> </table>	always	rarely	often	never	usually	every day	sometimes	once a week	seldom	on the weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with certain time expressions:</li> </ul> <table> <tr> <td>right now</td> <td>now</td> </tr> <tr> <td>today</td> <td>at the moment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>this week</td> <td>this evening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>this year</td> <td>this month</td> </tr> <tr> <td>these days</td> <td>these months</td> </tr> </table>	right now	now	today	at the moment	this week	this evening	this year	this month	these days	these months
always	rarely																				
often	never																				
usually	every day																				
sometimes	once a week																				
seldom	on the weekends																				
right now	now																				
today	at the moment																				
this week	this evening																				
this year	this month																				
these days	these months																				

Beginner 1 – Exercise 40 – Present Continuous: Versus Simple Present

*Use either the SIMPLE PRESENT or the PRESENT CONTINUOUS of the verbs in parentheses.*

1. Ruth (ask, usually) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of questions in class, but today she (ask neg.) \_\_\_\_\_ any.
2. Please don't make so much noise. My sick grandmother (rest) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Cindy can't come to the phone right now because she (take) \_\_\_\_\_ a bath.
4. Cindy (do) \_\_\_\_\_ her homework after school every day.
5. After 3 months in the hospital, Bob is glad that he (jog) \_\_\_\_\_ again today.
6. Every evening the mother (sing) \_\_\_\_\_ her child to sleep after she (read) \_\_\_\_\_ him a bed-time story.
7. A: "What (make) \_\_\_\_\_?"  
B: "I (bake) \_\_\_\_\_ an apple pie for the picnic tomorrow."
8. A: "The leaves (change) \_\_\_\_\_ color now."  
B: They're beautiful! This is the first time I've seen so many pretty colours. The trees (change, not) \_\_\_\_\_ in my country. It is too hot.
9. (you, put, always) \_\_\_\_\_ the cat outside when you leave for the day?
10. I (sleep, usually) \_\_\_\_\_ until 7:00 a.m. every morning. Then, I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a shower and (eat) \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast.

*Check the sentence (a) or (b) that is closest in meaning to the first.*

1. Karen's getting really good grades this semester.
  - (a) Her grades are always good.
  - (b) Her grades are better than they were last semester.
  
2. Look! Nicola's wearing a dress today.
  - (a) Nicola seldom wears dresses.
  - (b) Nicola probably wore a dress yesterday, too.
  
3. Vince and Irene live in New London.
  - (a) They expect to move very soon.
  - (b) New London is their home.
  
4. I'm taking the bus to school this week.
  - (a) I'm sitting on the bus right now.
  - (b) I don't usually take the bus.
  
5. A: Where's David?  
B: He's asleep on the couch.
  - (a) He's sleeping on the couch.
  - (b) He sleeps on the couch.
  
6. A: How's Maria these days?  
B: Busy. She's learning how to dance the tango.
  - (a) Maria has a new hobby.
  - (b) She's dancing right now.