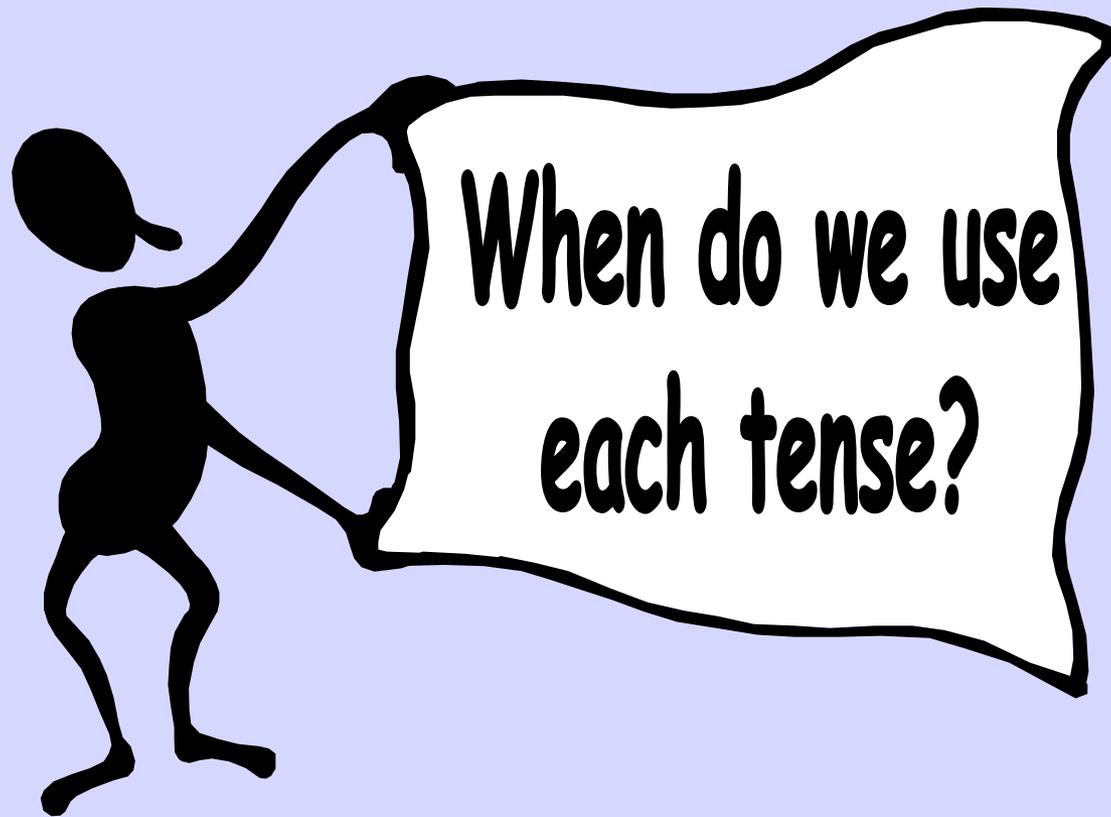


Simple Present vs. Present Continuous



Today's objective

- I can use simple present tense and present progressive verbs correctly when I speak and write.

Remember:

Grammar has **meaning!**

Different grammar tenses are used in different situations or contexts and they carry different meanings.

For example . . .

Use the **simple present** for:

1) action that happens repeatedly
(habitual action)

2) general or permanent situations

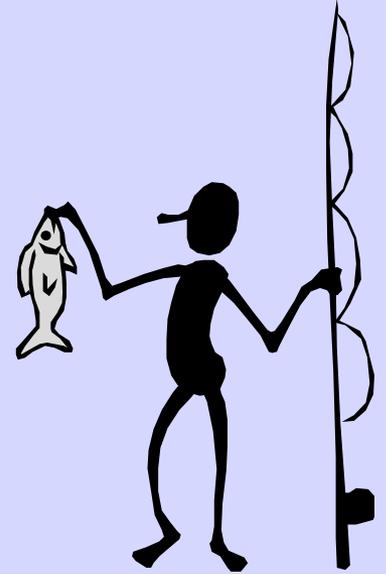
3) facts

Examples . . .

Simple Present (Examples)

1) Habitual Action:

Tom goes fishing every week.



I usually work until 2:00 p.m.

My family comes to visit me every year.

*Frequency adverbs: these adverbs are commonly used with simple present:

Always, never, usually, rarely, sometimes, often, etc.

Simple Present (More Examples)

2) General or Permanent Situations:

My family lives far away.

Jack doesn't work on Saturday.

Beth and Toan work at ECC.

3) Facts:

The Earth is round.

Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.

The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.



Grammar Structure:

Here are some reminders
about how to **make** the
simple present.



Simple Present:

The most important thing to remember about this tense is . . .

We say:

I

You

We

They

work

Simple Present:

But for **3rd person singular**, we say . . .

He

She

It

works**S**

The verb BE

Remember the forms of verb BE for the simple present tense:

I AM

He, She, It IS

They, We, You ARE

Simple Present (Negative)

For all verbs (EXCEPT **be**), use:

doesn't + simple form
don't + of VERB

Examples . . .

1) Sara works on Sunday.
Sara **doesn't work** on Sunday.

2) They have a big house.
They **don't have** a big house.

3) Sam takes classes at night.
Sam **doesn't take** classes at night.

4) I have a lot of free time.
I **don't have** a lot of free time.

VERB BE (Negative)

For this verb ONLY, never use doesn't or don't. Simply ADD the word NOT after the verb.

I am tired.

I am NOT tired.

She is rich.

She is NOT rich.

They are here.

They are NOT here.

Use the **present continuous**
for:

1) Something that is happening now or
close to the time of speaking

2) A temporary situation

Examples . . .

Present Continuous (Examples)

1) Action happening now or close to time of speaking:

Where's Tom? He's playing soccer.



Don't bother the kids. They are doing their homework.

2) Temporary situations:

Martha and her husband are traveling around Europe for two weeks.

Lisa is living with friends until she finds an apartment.

Present Continuous. . .

We often use the present continuous (and not simple present) when action continues over a period of time.

this week, this semester, this year

I'm working 50 hours this week.

She's taking an Italian class this semester.

This year, I'm trying to cut back on junk food.



Grammar Structure:

Here are some reminders
about how to **make** the
present continuous:



Present Continuous:

Don't forget that VERB BE is part of this structure.

I **AM**

You, We, They **ARE**

He, She, It **IS**

+ verb
-ING

Examples:

Everyone **is studying** hard.

They **are celebrating** their 40th anniversary today.

I **am cleaning** my house this week.



Present Continuous (Negative)

For this tense, simply ADD the word **NOT** after the verb BE.

They are working today.

They are **NOT** working today.

She is taking a Math class.

She is **NOT** taking a Math class.

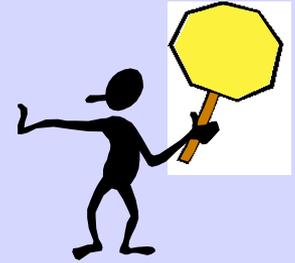
Practice!

Do these exercises with your class.

Choose the simple present or present continuous and discuss why each is correct.

1. Every Tuesday, I _____ (go) to the gym.
2. Karen _____ (paint) her apartment this week.
3. This room _____ (be) very large.
4. He usually _____ (drive) to school.
5. It _____ (rain) really hard right now.
6. Where is John? He _____ (work).
7. I _____ (meet) my friend in a few minutes.
8. My family _____ (come) to San Diego often.

Important Note about Present Continuous!



Some verbs are NOT typically used in the present continuous tense. Instead, we prefer to use these verbs in the simple present.

These verbs are called **STATIC** (or non-action) verbs. Here are some examples:

want	like	love	hate
know	need	see	hear
believe	understand	have (possession)	
forget	remember	belong	

Examples:

I like Rome.

NOT: ~~I am liking Rome.~~



She has a big house.

NOT: ~~She is having a big house.~~

I prefer to have coffee.

NOT: ~~I am preferring to have coffee.~~

Answers!

1. On Tuesdays, I go to the gym.
2. Karen is painting her apartment this week.
3. This room is very large. (fact)
4. He has a headache right now. (stative)
5. It is raining really hard right now.
6. Where is John? He is working. (right now)
7. I am meeting my friend in a few minutes.
8. My family comes to San Diego often.

For more practice . . .

- 1) Go to our **class website**:
www.ecc6.blogspot.com
- 2) On the right side, click on **Grammar Site**. Then click on **330**.
- 3) Click on **Grammar**, and then go down the page to **Verbs**. Click on the **Simple Present or Present Continuous?** for explanation and practice.

And . . .

Remember to ask your teacher or another classmate if you need help.

Your teacher can give you more explanation, examples, and exercises if you need them.

