



University Centre Abdelhafid Boussouf E-learning Centre



English - Level 2

Lesson 01 Present Tense

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Students Concerned- Semester 06 -			
<i>Institute</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Specialty</i>
<i>Letters and Languages</i>	<i>-Foreign Languages</i>	<i>Licentiate 02</i>	<i>French</i>
<i>Economic Sciences</i>	<i>-Economic Science -Commercial Science -Management Science</i>	<i>Licentiate 02</i>	<i>All specialties</i>

Objectives of the Lesson

This lesson has been designed to make sure students understand that it is used to describe their routines, activities, habits and general truths as well as they will be able to use it correctly.

1. Present Simple tense:

The simple present is a [verb tense](#) with two main uses:

1. We use the simple present tense when an action is happening right now
2. We use it when an action happens regularly (or unceasingly, which is why it's sometimes called present indefinite). Depending on the person, the simple present tense is formed by adding “s” or “es” to the end.

For example: I **feel** good.
Sally **loves** her cat.
I'm sick.

Typically, when we want to describe a temporary action that is currently in progress, we use the [present continuous](#): *Pauline can't come to the phone right now because she **is brushing** her teeth.*

How to ask a question:

The formula for asking a question in the simple present is “*do/does + [subject] + [root form of verb]*”.

Example 01: Do you know how to bake a pie?

Example 02: How much does Pauline love pie?

Common verbs in the simple present

Infinitive

to ask
to work
to call
to use
to have

I, You, We, They

ask / do not ask
work / do not work
call / do not call
use / do not use
have / do not have

He, She, It

asks / does not ask
works / does not work
calls / does not call
uses / does not use
has / does not have

The verb *to be* in the simple present

Infinitive	I	You, We, They	She, He, It
To be	I am/ am not	Are/ are not	Is/ is not

Present Perfect:

When we want to show relation between present tense and past tense, we use present perfect tense. It means, when we talk about a period, that it isn't finished.

Also we may use present perfect tense to show something that occurred at a phase in the past before now. Finally we use present perfect tense to talk about something that occurred in an unspecific time in the past but is related to the present.

These time words are: ever, never, before, up to now, still, so far, recently, just, already. Also we usually use today, this week, this month and this year in present perfect tense. The word yet is used in the negative and interrogative sentences.

Affirmative Form:

Subject + have/has + past participle.

Jane has just started her third semester at the university.

Negative form:

Subject + have/has + not + past participle.

Kevin has not planned to work in that factory.

Interrogative form:

Have/Has + subject + past participle?

Have you ever been to Nova Scotia?

Exercise: Complete the sentences

1. I (waste) a lot of time to write this essay up to now.
2. (you/read) this book yet?
3. John (make) an appointment in the concert hall with his friends after work.
4. I (find/not) anything to eat yet.
5. Kate (do) many presentations before.
6. (you/do) any travel over these last months?
7. I (live) in Toronto for 6 years.
8. I (start) to study physics in college for 5 months.
9. Linda (travel) all over the world since 2011.
10. I (study) French since I was 6 years old.

The present continuous

The present continuous tense is made from the **present tense of the verb *be*** and the ***-ing form*** of a verb.

I am	Playing
You are	asking
She is	reading
He is	writing
It is	eating
They are	working
We are	cooking

We use the **present continuous** to talk about:

1. activities at the moment of speaking:

*I'm just **leaving** work. I'll be home in an hour.
Please be quiet. The children **are sleeping**.*

2. future plans or arrangements:

*Mary **is going** to a new school **next term**.
What **are you doing next week**?*

Present continuous questions

We make questions by putting **am, is** or **are** in front of the **subject**:

***Are you** listening?
Are they coming to your party?
When **is she** going home?
What **am I** doing here?*

Present continuous negatives

We make negatives by putting **not** (or **n't**) after **am, is** or **are**:

*I'm **not** doing that.
You **aren't** listening. (or You're **not** listening.)
They **aren't** coming to the party. (or They're **not** coming to the party.)
She **isn't** going home until Monday. (or She's **not** going home until Monday.)*

Stative verbs

We do not normally use the continuous **with stative verbs**. Stative verbs include:

- verbs of **thinking and feeling**:

<i>believe</i> <i>dislike</i> <i>know</i> <i>like</i>	<i>love</i> <i>hate</i> <i>prefer</i> <i>realise</i>	<i>recognise</i> <i>remember</i> <i>suppose</i> <i>think (= believe)</i>	<i>understand</i> <i>want</i> <i>wish</i>
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- verbs of the senses:

<i>appear</i> <i>feel</i>	<i>look</i> <i>seem</i>	<i>smell</i> <i>sound</i>	<i>taste</i>
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- others:

<i>agree</i> <i>be</i>	<i>belong</i> <i>disagree</i>	<i>need</i> <i>owe</i>	<i>own</i> <i>possess</i>
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We normally use the simple instead:

I understand you. (NOT *I ~~am understanding~~ you.*)

This cake tastes wonderful. (NOT *This cake ~~is tasting~~ wonderful.*)

Level: intermediate

We also use the present continuous to talk about:

- something which is happening **before and after a specific time**:

*At eight o'clock we **are** usually **having** breakfast.*

*When I get home the children **are doing** their homework.*

- something which **we think is temporary**:

*Michael is at university. He's **studying** history.*

*I'm **working** in London for the next two weeks.*

- something which is **new** and **contrasts** with a previous state:

*These days most people **are using** email instead of writing letters.*

*What sort of clothes **are** teenagers **wearing** nowadays?*

*What sort of music **are** they **listening** to?*

- something which is changing, growing or developing:

*The children **are growing up** quickly.*

*The climate **is changing** rapidly.*

*Your English **is improving**.*

- something which happens **again and again**:

*It's **always raining** in London.*

*They **are always arguing**.*

*George is great. He's **always laughing**.*

Level: advanced

We can use the present continuous to talk about the past when we are:

- **telling a story**:

*The other day I'm just **walking** down the street when suddenly this man comes up to me and asks me to lend him some money. Well, he's **carrying** a big stick and he looks a bit dangerous, so I'm **wondering** what to do ...*

- **summarising** a book, film or play:

*Harry Potter is a pupil at Hogwarts school. One day when he **is playing** Quidditch he sees a strange object in the sky. He wonders what **is happening** ...*

Practice:

Exercise 1 – Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks with the present continuous form of the given verbs.

1. I _____ to watch a movie at Inox. (go)
2. We _____ in the nearby park. (play)
3. The boys _____ in the pond. (swim)
4. Rita _____ at the function. (sing)
5. The child _____ baseball. (play)
6. The chef _____ his famous cake. (cook)
7. The teacher _____ the students. (teach)
8. I _____ Aladdin and the Magic Lamp. (read)
9. The man _____ a Royal Enfield. (ride)
10. Sheema _____ for her dance performance. (practise)
11. The boys _____ everyone present at the party. (annoy)
12. The baby _____ with her mother. (giggle)
13. Ronaldo _____ his team. (train)

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ⁱ See, The Simple Present Tense, April 11, 2023 URL: <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/simple-present/>

