

PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Present simple:

Form:

Positive

I/You/We/They **start** at 8:00.

She/He/It **starts** at 8:00

Negative:

I/You/We/They **don't start** at 8:00.

She/He/It **doesn't start** at 8:00.

Question:

Do I/you/we/they **start** at 8:00?

Yes, I do. No, I don't.

Does she/he/it **start** at 8:00?

Yes, she does. No, she doesn't.

Use:

- 1 Facts which are always true *Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.*
- 2 Habitual actions (routines, habits) *I usually **go** to work by car.*
- 3 Permanent situations and states *My parents **live** in London. They have been there for 20 years.*
- 4 Future facts *My train **leaves** at 7:00.*

Common time adverbials with the Present Simple: *always, usually, regularly, every morning, often, sometimes, twice a week, from time to time, occasionally, rarely, seldom, once a month, hardly ever, never.*

Present continuous

Form:

Positive:

Subject + to be + verb-ing

I **am going** outside.

You **are going** outside....

Negative:

Subject + not to be + verb-ing

I **am not going** outside.

You **are not going** outside. ...

Question:

to be + subject + verb-ing

Are you **going** outside?

Yes, I am. No, I am not.

Is he **going** outside?

Yes, he is. No, he isn't.

Use:

- 1 An activity happening now *I'm **doing** the washing-up just now.*
- 2 Temporary situations and habits *I'm **living** with some friends until I can find a flat.*
- 3 An annoying habit *You're **always borrowing** money from me!*
- 4 Personal arrangements for the future *We **are going** to Prague on Saturday.*

Common time adverbials: *just, now, at the moment, at the present.*

PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS (revision)

1 Choose the most suitable tense.

- a I cannot talk now. I cook/I'm cooking the dinner.
- b What shall we have? Do you like/Are you liking fish?
- c The River Po flows/is flowing into the Adriatic Sea.
- d Do you wait/Are you waiting for the bus to Newcastle?
- e You always borrow/You are always borrowing money from me!

2 Put each verb in brackets into either the present simple or the present continuous.

- a What sort of work (you do)
- b What (you look)at? (I wear)the wrong clothes again?
- c Excuse me, (you read)..... your newspaper? Could I borrow it?
- d I (still have)a pain in my leg but it (get)better.
- e What (the people here do) in the evenings?
- f The light from the Sun (take)8 mins 20 secs to reach the Earth.
- g I (look after)Jack's dog this weekend. (you want)to take it for a walk?
- h Who (Sue dance)with? That's not her brother, is it?
- i That plant I bought (not grow)very much. And I (water).....it every day.
- j Which hotel (you stay)in whenever you (come)here?
- k This flower (smell).....wonderful.
- l I(just taste) the soup to see if it needs more salt.
- m She(think) that I would be happier in another job.
- n We(think) of buying a new car.
- o They(usually have) breakfast at home, but today they (have)at work.
- p Bob(be) rather difficult at the moment.

3 Put each verb in brackets into either the present simple or the present continuous.

Dear Aunt Jean,

I(just write) to tell you how much I(appreciate) the money you sent me, and to tell you how I(get on) in my first term at university. Actually, I.....(really enjoy) myself! I(study) quite hard as well, but at the moment I(spend) a lot of time just making friends. I(still stay) with my friend Sue, and I(look for) somewhere of my own to live. Only a few of the first-year students(live) in college here, and I(seem) to be spending a lot of time travelling backwards and forwards. I(go) to lectures every morning, and most afternoons I(study) in the library. In fact I(write) this letter instead of an essay on 'Hamlet'! I(think) I'll buy some new clothes with the money you sent. Everything(cost) a lot here, and I(save) to buy a winter coat. It(get) really cold here in the evenings. I(know) lots of other students and generally speaking we(have) quite a good time socially! I(also learn) to drive.

See you soon, Katherine

5 Put each verb in brackets into the most appropriate future time form (use either the present simple or the present continuous).

- a I cannot see you on Thursday afternoon. I (visit)our Birmingham branch.
- b What time (your plane leave)
- c Can you call me at 7:00, because we (leave)tomorrow.
- d According to this timetable, the bus (arrive)at 6:00.
- e I have to finish it now because I (meet)Jack in two hours.
- f When (the concert start)? – It (start)at seven.