

PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

FORM AND USE

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?

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

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

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

USE

1 **Facts** which are **always true**

The earth goes around the sun.

2 Habitual actions (**routines, habits**)

*In the summer, Tom **usually plays tennis twice a week.***

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?

Is he going outside?

Yes, I am. No, I am not.

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

USE

1 An activity happening **now**

*Please, don't make so much noise. I'm **studying.***

2 **Temporary** situations and habits

*I'm **living** with some friends until I can find a flat.*

3 When we talk about **changing** situations

*Is your English **getting better**?*

4 An **annoying** habit

*You're **always borrowing** money from me!*

5 **Personal arrangements** for the future

*We **are going** to Prague on Saturday.*

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

PRACTICE

1. Choose the form of the verb which best completes the following sentences.

- a) I cannot talk now. I **cook/ am 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/ are always borrowing** money from me!
- f) This cheese **smells/is smelling** awful.
- g) We **have/are having** a meeting. Come and join in.

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

- 1) Listen to those people. What language _____ (they/speak)?
- 2) The population of the world _____ (rise) very fast.
- 3) I don't understand the word „deceive“. What _____ (“deceive”/mean)?
- 4) Hurry. The bus _____ (come). I _____ (not want) to miss it.
- 5) I usually _____ (go) to school by bus.
- 6) Maria is in Canada for three months. She _____ (learn) English.
- 7) Water _____ (boil) at 100 degrees Celsius.
- 8) A: What _____ (your mum/do)? B: She's a teacher, but she _____ (not/work) right now.
- 9) George is a vegetarian. He _____ (not/eat) meat.
- 10) She _____ (think) that I would be happier in another job.
- 11) You look sad. What _____ (think) about?
- 12) What time _____ (the banks/close) here?
- 13) (*at the movies*) It's a good movie, isn't it? _____ (you/enjoy) it?
- 14) They usually _____ (have) lunch at school, but today they _____ (have) it at home.
- 15) He _____ (not/understand) the problem.
- 16) Look! Somebody _____ (climb) that tree over there.
- 17) I _____ (get) hungry. Let's go get something to eat.
- 18) We _____ (go) on holiday to Spain with my parents this year.
- 19) The next train _____ (leave) at two fifteen in the morning.
- 20) A: When _____ (the lecture/start)? B: It _____ (start) in half an hour.

3. Add one of these to each sentence.

always, at the moment, never, often, right now, this week, today, usually

- 1) You're looking very beautiful. _____
- 2) He's talking on another line. _____
- 3) I play tennis on Wednesdays. _____
- 4) Gloria goes to foreign films. _____
- 5) He buys his clothes in Oxford. _____
- 6) My cousin is staying at our house. _____
- 7) Mary is shopping; she'll be back in about half an hour. _____
- 8) I see Joe at the swimming pool. _____