



PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

A) Present simple

Form:

Positive:

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

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

Question:

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

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

Negative:

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

She/He/It **doesn't 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

*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 (timetables, schedules...) *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.**

B) Present continuous

Form:

Positive:

Subject + to be + verb-ing

I **am going** outside.

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

Negative:

Subject + to be + **not** + 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

*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 Fixed arrangements for the future

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

Common time adverbials with the Present Continuous: **just, now, at the moment, at present, this week/month/year....**

PRACTICE

1 Put each verb in brackets into either the Present Simple or the Present Continuous.

- 1 What disciplines (you study) _____?
- 2 What subjects (you study) _____ this term?
- 3 Justin (write currently) _____ a book about his adventures in Tibet. I hope he can find a good publisher when he is finished.
- 4 What (you look) _____ at? (I wear) _____ the wrong clothes again?
- 5 Excuse me, (you read) _____ the newspaper? Could I borrow it?
- 6 I (still have) _____ a pain in my leg but it (get) _____ better.
- 7 What (the people here do) _____ in the evenings?
- 8 The light from the Sun (take) _____ 8 mins 20 secs to reach the Earth.
- 9 I (look after) _____ Jack's dog this weekend. (you want) _____ to take it for a walk?
- 10 Who (Sue dance) _____ with? That's not her brother, is it?
- 11 I (think of) _____ looking for a job in Prague.
- 12 Which hotel (you stay) _____ in whenever you (come) _____ here?
- 13 I cannot see you on Thursday afternoon. I (visit) _____ our Birmingham branch.
- 14 What time (your plane leave) _____?
- 15 Can you call me at 7:00, because we (leave) _____ tomorrow.
- 16 According to this timetable, the bus (arrive) _____ at 6:00.
- 17 Where (you work) _____?
- 18 What project (you work on) _____ this month?

2 Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

- 1 Ouch! **You stand** on my foot! You're standing
- 2 They **have always** free time on Monday afternoon, so you can contact them then.
- 3 She can't answer the door, because she **has a shower**.
- 4 We **are needing** a reply from you before Friday.
- 5 She **don't like** when people are rude to her.
- 6 They **always are** late.
- 7 **Do you go out** tonight?
- 8 I'm fed up with him. **He always forgets to reply** to my emails!
- 9 A: Are you going to subscribe for next year? B: I don't know yet. **It is depending** on price.
- 10 A: What **does she cook**? B: I don't know, but **it is smelling** good.