

PRESENT SIMPLE VS PRESENT CONTINUOUS

WHEN DO I USE WHAT?

PRESENT SIMPLE

Habits. Regular actions or situations

- ⇒ I **wash** my hair every day.
- ⇒ He usually **gets up** very early.

Facts, permanent situations or states

- ⇒ I **have** one brother. He **lives** in Paris.
- ⇒ Water **boils** at 100 degrees.

With stative verbs*

- ⇒ Give me the money. I **need** it now.
- ⇒ What happened? You **look** sad.

Future timetabled events

- ⇒ The train **leaves** at 4.
- ⇒ The exams **start** next Monday.

SIGNAL WORDS: *Always, never, often, sometimes, every day, once a month, etc.*

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Actions in progress 'now'/'around now'

- ⇒ I can't talk. I'm **brushing** my teeth.
- ⇒ I'm **reading** a new book. I love it!

Temporary actions or situations

- ⇒ I'm **going** to work by bus this week.
- ⇒ I'm **living** with my cousins until I find an apartment.

Changing or developing situations

- ⇒ The climate **is changing** very quickly.
- ⇒ Your English **is improving**.

Future actions that are decided

- ⇒ I'm **meeting** John this evening.
- ⇒ We **are leaving** tomorrow at 7 a.m.

SIGNAL WORDS: *Now, at the moment, these days, this week/month, etc.*

***Verbs of the senses:** hear, see, smell, look, seem, sound. **Opinion:** believe, consider, like, love, hate, prefer, think, etc. **Possession:** have, own, belong, etc. **Also:** agree, be, depend, need, mean, remember, realise, recognise, seem, want, etc.

10 Sentences of Present Continuous Tense

1. The boys are **playing** football after school.
2. They are **learning** Spanish now.
3. Why aren't you **doing** your homework?
4. Suzan is **ironing** her clothes right now.
5. Mary is at university. She's **studying** chemistry.
6. She is **working** right now.
7. They aren't **studying** English these days.
8. She is constantly **changing** her hair color.
9. Children are **studying** their lessons.
10. The man is **talking** on the phone.

Present Simple vs. Present Continuous



This is Mrs White. She (be) a primary school teacher.

She (teach) English, Maths and Geography.

At the moment, she (teach) Maths.

She (live) in London and (be)

married to Georges, who is French. They (have) three children. They

all (love) animals, but they (not have) any pets

because they (live) in an apartment. Mrs White (speak)

French as well as English, but she (not teach) it.

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Mrs White's niece Sophie (stay) with the Whites for a few days.

Sophie (live) and (study) in Liverpool, but

she (enjoy) her mid-term break in London at the moment.

She (plan) to do some serious shopping and sightseeing.



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Mrs White's son Arnold (not like) shopping,

but he (love) hanging out with friends.

They usually (go) to the local park where

they (play) football or basketball.

Today, however, Arnold (not play) football or basketball;

he (skateboard).

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Mr White (work) for a multinational company. He (not work)

today, however, because he (not feel) well. He phoned in sick.