

Present Simple vs Present Continuous Exercises

Level: A2, B1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Present simple or present continuous?

The present simple describes what usually happens. The present continuous describes what is happening now, or for a short time around now.

Present simple: habits and facts: I work in a bank. The sun rises in the east.

Present continuous: am/is/are + -ing for actions in progress: I'm working from home today.

Always or for now: She lives in Rome (it is her home) vs She's living in Rome this year (for now)

State verbs: know, want, like and need don't take -ing: I know the answer (not 'I'm knowing')

Clue words: simple: always, usually, every day — continuous: now, right now, at the moment, today, this week

Exercise 1: Choose the correct tense

Select the form that fits each situation.

- Look! It ___ — take your umbrella.
a) rains b) is raining c) rain
- My father ___ in a factory near the city every day.
a) is working b) works c) work
- I can't talk now — I ___ dinner.
a) cook b) am cooking c) cooks
- She ___ two sugars in her coffee.
a) is wanting b) wants c) want
- This week I ___ at my aunt's house.
a) am staying b) stay c) stayed

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

Type the correct form (present simple or continuous) of the verb in brackets.

- The sun ___ in the east. (rise)
- Be quiet! I ___ to sleep. (try)
- My sister ___ the piano every evening after school. (practice)
- This month, my brother ___ in a shop. (work)
- He ___ three languages, and now he ___ a fourth. (speak / learn)

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

Click the words in the correct order to build the sentence.

11. Put the words in the correct order: **watching / is / She / TV in her room.**

12. Put the words in the correct order: **usually walks / He / to school.**

13. Put the words in the correct order: **are / why / you / laughing / ?**

14. Put the words in the correct order: **doesn't / meat / eat / my friend**

Exercise 4: True or false?

Decide if each statement is true or false.

15. "I am knowing the answer" is correct English. True / False
16. 'At the moment' goes with the present continuous. True / False
17. "Right now I play football in the park" is correct. True / False
18. You can say "I'm reading a good book" even when you are not reading at this second. True / False

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct tense

1. b) is raining
2. b) works
3. b) am cooking
4. b) wants
5. a) am staying

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

6. rises
7. am trying / 'm trying
8. practices / practises
9. is working / 's working
10. speaks / is learning / speaks is learning / speaks/is learning / speaks / 's learning

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

11. She is watching TV in her room.
12. He usually walks to school.
13. why are you laughing ?
14. my friend doesn't eat meat

Exercise 4: True or false?

15. False
16. True
17. False
18. True