

Present continuous VS Present simple?

1. Repeated action or happening now?

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We use the present continuous for something happening now.

I am speaking to you live means that Kitty is in the middle of a live broadcast.

Here are some more examples.

*It's **raining** at the moment.*

*I'm **watching** this programme.*

*Look. That man **is taking** a photo of you.*

PRESENT SIMPLE

We use the present simple for repeated actions. *I often speak live to the camera* means that she does it again and again.

*It always **rains** at the weekend.*

*I **watch** television most weekends.*

*He's a photographer. He **takes** lots of photos.*

2. Temporary or permanent?

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We use the present continuous for a routine or situation that we see as temporary (for a short period).

*I'm **working** at a sports shop for six weeks.*

*At the moment they're **living** in a very small flat.*

PRESENT SIMPLE

We use the present simple for a routine or situation that we see as permanent.

*I **work** at a sports shop. It's a permanent job.*

*They **live** in a very nice flat.*

3. Thoughts, feelings and states

We normally use the present simple to talk about thoughts and feelings.

*I **think** it's a good programme. Kitty **likes** her job.* We also use it to talk about states and permanent facts.

*Reporting **means** a lot to her. Paper **burns** easily.* We also use

Exercises

A Put the verbs into the present continuous or simple?

At work Mark is talking to Alan in the corridor. Complete their conversation.

Put in the present continuous or simple of the verbs.

Mark: (►) *Are you **looking** (you / look) for someone?*

Alan: Yes, (►) *I **need** (I / need) to speak to Neil. He isn't in his office.*

Mark: (1)..... (he / talk) to the boss at the moment.

(2)..... (I / think) (3)..... (they / discuss) money.

Alan: Oh, right. And what about you? (4)..... (you / look) for someone too?

Mark: Yes, Linda. (5) (you / know) where she is?

Alan: Oh, she isn't here today. She only (6) (work) four days a week.

(7) (she / not / work) on Fridays. She'll be here on Monday.

Mark: Thank you. (8)(you / know) a lot about Linda.

Alan: Well, most days (9) (I / give) her a lift,

or(10) (she / give) me one. (11)(she / live) quite close to me.

Mark: Well, (12) (I / waste) my time here then. I'll get back to my computer.

B Put the verbs into the present continuous or simple?

Complete the sentences. Put in the present continuous or simple of the verbs.

► *I'm writing* (I / write) to my parents. / *write* (I / write) to them every weekend.

1 (it / snow) outside. (it / come) down quite hard, look.

2 Normally (I / start) work at eight o'clock, but (I / start) at seven this week. We're very busy at the moment.

3 I haven't got a car at the moment, so.....(I / go) to work on the bus this week.

Usually (I / drive) to work.

4 The sun (rise) in the east, remember. It's behind us so (we / travel) west.

5 I'm afraid I have no time to help just now..... (I / write) a report. But

..... (I / promise) I'll give you some help later.

6 (I / want) a new car(I / save) up to buy one.

C Put the verbs into the present continuous or simple?

1 "where's Sally?" "She (Speak) to Paul."

2 Whate time (you/go) to school ?

3 "Steve is in the bathroom." (he/have) a shower?

4 That villa (belong) to a rich businessman.

5 She (like) listening to music. She (have) a lot of cassettes.

6 You can turn off the Television. I (not/watch) it.

7 I have a motorbike but I (not/usually/ride) it to work.

8 (you/want) to come to Julie's party with me?

9 Please be quiet. I (try) to do my homework.

10 Drive carfully. It (rain).

11 Sara (never/forget) people's names.