

Present Simple and Present Continuous:

Objectives: At the end of this lesson, learners will be able to use the present simple and present continuous correctly.

Present Simple:

1- We use the present simple for permanent situation:

E.g. - Giraffes **live** in Africa. They **have** very long legs and necks. They **feed** on acacia leaves.

2- The present simple is also used for things that are generally true:

E.g. -It **rains** more in winter.

- Birds **don't sing** at night.

3- We also use the present simple for habits:

E.g. -I **bite** my nails.

- He **smokes** cigars.

- **Does** he usually wear white socks with black shoes.

4- It is used with things that happen regularly:

E.g. - They **play** bingo on Monday nights.

- Her parents **go** to Majorca every summer.

5- And with state verbs that describe current states:

E.g. -She **loves** chocolate.

- They **don't believe** us.

6- And in informal reports or instructions:

E.g. - It **says** here the strike is over.

- You **go** to the end and **turn** left.

7- When we perform an action by speaking, for example when we promise to do something, we usually use the present simple not the present continuous.

E.g. - I **accept** their decision.

- I promise to be more careful.

Other verbs used like this include: admit, apologize, deny, insist, regret..... etc.

Present Continuous (Progressive):

1- We use the present continuous for actions in progress or to talk about being in the middle of an activity:

E.g. - Hi, I'm **calling** to let you know I'm **coming**, but it's **snowing** and the traffic **is moving** slowly.

2- We can describe current situations as permanent with the present simple or as temporary with the present continuous:

E.g. - My brother Alan **lives** in London and **works** for a magazine. He **writes** about economics.

- My sister Fiona **is living** with Alan just now. She **is not working** yet. She **is looking** for a job.

Exercise: Complete each paragraph with one set of verbs, using the present simple or present continuous?

Know/look/not be/repair/use be/be/have/say/tell be/live/look/move/resemble.

A- My computer very irritating right now. Every time I it to save something, it it no space in its memory, which ridiculous.

B- Whales and dolphins like fish, but they mammals that in the ocean and through water in ways that the movements of a dog rather than those of a shark.

C- Man: Excuse me. I for Mrs Adamson, but she in her usual classroom. you where she is?

Woman: Oh, they her classroom ceiling this week so she the library as her classroom.

Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous:

Objectives: The main aim of this lesson is to familiarize students with the present perfect and the present perfect continuous as well as their uses and forms.

Present Perfect:

1- We use the present perfect to talk about or describe an action or situation started in the past which connects to the present.

E.g. – How long **have** you **worked** here? ⇨ I **have worked** here since 1997.

2- When we mean at any point up to now:

E.g. – This is the best coffee I **have ever tasted**.

- I **haven't been** to an opera, but I **have seen** one on TV.

3- And with state verbs:

E.g. – I **have known** Tony for about five years. (Not I know him for five years or I have been knowing him for five years).

Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive):

1- We use the present perfect continuous (progressive) when we talk about an activity in progress up to the present:

E.g. – They have been repairing our street and it has been causing a lot of traffic problems.

2- And to talk about or describe actions which go on over a period of time up to the present:

E.g. – Have you been waiting long? ⇨ I have been sitting here for an hour.

3- We can describe an action as a process going on from earlier up to the present (present perfect continuous):

E.g. – We have been making chicken soup. That's why the kitchen is hot and steamy.

⇨ Or as the present result of an earlier action (present perfect):

E.g. – We have made chicken soup. That's what everyone is eating. Would you like some?

Exercise: Using a dictionary if necessary, complete these sentences with the nouns and the verbs in the present perfect?

- also-ran - hat-trick

- has-been - no-show

- buy - not come - say - train

- hear - not finish - take - win

1- Colinthe race for the second year in a row and he that he will come back and try to make it a next year.

2- An '.....' is an informal expression for a person or a horse that part in a competition or a race, but first, second or third.

3- Wilson says he people describe him negatively as a '.....', but he hard this year to prove that he is still one of the best.

4- A '.....' is an informal expression for someone who a ticket for an event, a journey, etc., but who to the event.

Past Simple and Past Continuous:

Objectives: The primary goal of this course is to make students know how to use the past simple and past continuous.

Past Simple:

1- We use the past simple for completed actions in the past:

E.g. – Dickens **wrote** Oliver Twist.

- Edison **invented** the light bulb.

2- And with past states:

- Life seemed easier then.

- That ring belonged to my mother.

3- We use the past simple for two or more past actions in sequence, especially in narrative:

E.g. –He **knocked** her down, **grabbed** her purse and **ran off**.

4- To talk about habits in the past or to make a stronger contrast with the present. We can use the form (**used to**). The negative form is (didn't use to) more formally (used not to):

E.g. –He **used to** smoke a lot.

- There **used to** be a shop on the corner.

Past continuous (Progressive):

1- We use the past continuous to describe actions in progress at a specific time in the past:

E.g. –What **were** you **doing** at 08:30 last night? → I **was** not **doing** anything special. I **was** just **reading**.

2- We can use the past continuous with some verbs (wonder, hope) to make a request more polite:

E.g. – I **was wondering** when I could talk to you.

- We **were hoping** you might have a free moment.

3- In sentences with (when and while) clauses, we can use the past continuous to describe an activity in one clause that starts before an action in another clause:

E.g. – While he **was** driving, I **fell** asleep.

- We **saw** Henry while we **were walking** in the park.

The activity that starts later may interrupt the first activity:

E.g. – I **was listening** to the news when she **phoned**.

- When I **was running**, I **slipped** and **fell**.

Exercise: Complete each paragraph with one set of verbs, using the past simple or past continuous?

- miss/not get/wonder

- break/see/steal/teach

- come/ listen/ make/ say

- explain/talk/understand

A- We to music when one of our neighbours to the door and..... she couldn't sleep because we too much noise.

B- Someone into Barbara's office and her computer yesterday afternoon while she her history class. No one the thief.

C- Because he never..... anything very clearly, none of us what the science teacher about most of the time.

D- I'm sorry. I here on time and I the beginning of your presentation, but I if you might have an extra handout left.