**Unit 2** / Tenses – **The Present Simple** **Tense** and **The Present Continuous Tense**

The Difference between the present simple and the present continuous

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **The Present Simple Tense**  The simple present is a verb tense with four main uses |  | **The Present (Progressive) Continuous Tense**  The present continuous is a verb tense with three main uses |
| 1. | We use the simple present tense when we talk about facts or truths  e.g. Cows **give** milk.  e.g. I **have** two sisters. / She **has** two sisters.  e.g. Nada **practices** the piano every day. | 1. | When we want to describe a temporary action that is currently in progress (**i.e.** happening now)  e.g. I **am watching** TV. at this very moment.  e.g. It **is raining** outside now.  e.g. They **are playing** tennis at this moment. |
| 2. | When the action happens regularly like in general habits or scheduled programs  e.g. He usually **goes** to school by bus. | 2. | When we talk about an action that is happening **around now** (i.e. before and after now)  e.g. Students **are studying** hard these days. |
| 3. | When we describe a permanent situation  e.g. She **works** in a bank.  e.g. They l**ive** in England. | 3. | When we talk about an action that will happen in the near future, especially for planned events.  e.g. We **are having** a picnic tomorrow. |
| 4. | When we talk about **fixed future events**  e.g. The train **leaves** at 6:30 PM. |  |  |

**How to Form the verb in the Present Continues Tense?**

The structure of the Present Continuous tense is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | **Verb** | Complement |
| **S.**  Subject | **auxiliary be + present participleأسم الفاعل**  (am / is / are) main verb + (-ing) |  |

**Note 1 /** For negative sentences we insert ‘**not**’ between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.

e.g. The children are **not** playing in the garden now.

For question sentences**,** we exchange the subject and the auxiliary verb.

e.g. **Are** the children playing in the garden now**?**

**How do we add the suffix “–ing” ?**

We make the present continuous tense by adding -ing to the base verb. Normally it’s simple: we just add -ing. But sometimes we have to change the word a little. Perhaps we double the last letter, or we drop a letter. Here are the rules to help you know how to add the suffix **–ing**.

**1.** directly

rain …..rain**ing /** work…..work**ing /** play….play**ing /** study….study**ing** / wait ….wait**ing**

**2.** if the verb ends with the letter (-e) , drop the letter (e), then add –ing.

writ**e** …. writ**ing /** liv**e**…. liv**ing /** com**e**…. com**ing /** mistak**e**…. mistak**in**g **/** …. etc.,

**3.** if the verb ends with the letter (-ie) , change the (ie) into the letter (y), then add –ing.

lie……lying / die…. dying / ……

**4.** if the base verb ends in **consonant + stressed vowel + consonant**, double the last letter:

stop → stop**ping** / run → run**ning** / begin → begin**ning** / cut → cut**ting** / ………

**Note 2 /** Not all the verbs take the suffix (-ing) when they come with the present continuous tense:

**Non-continuous Verbs** – Non-continuous verbs are verbs that we do not normally use with continuous tenses. These "stative" verbs are about state, not action, and they cannot express the continuous or progressive aspect.

**Here are some of the most common non-continuous verbs**:

**1. Feeling (emotion):** hate, like, love, prefer, want, wish, feel, desire, dislike, **e.g.** She feels well today.

**2. Senses:** appear, hear, see, seem, smell, sound, taste

**3. Communication:** agree, deny, disagree, mean, promise, satisfy, surprise

**4. process of the mind:** believe, imagine, know, mean, realize, recognize, remember, understand, **think\***

**5. other states:** be, concern, depend, involve, matter, need, owe

**6. possession:** possess, own, belong, have