

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 <u>temporary action</u> 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 live 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 Present Simple and Present Continues Tense?

1- The structure of the Present Simple Tense is:

Subject	Verb	Complement
S.	With or without (S) Singular =S Plurel = No S

2-The structure of the Present Continuous tense is:

Subject	Verb	Complement
S.	auxiliary be + present participle (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**raining** / work.....**working** / play....**playing** / study....**studying** / wait**waiting**

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

write **writing** / live.... **living** / come.... **coming** / mistake.... **mistaking** / etc.,

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

lie.....**lying** / die.... **dying** / tie.....**tying**/ vie.....**vying**

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

stop → **stopping** / run → **running** / begin → **beginning** / cut → **cutting** /

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**:

feeling: hate, like, love, prefer, want, wish, feel, desire, dislike.... e.g. She **feels** very sad today.

senses: appear, hear, see, seem, smell, sound, taste.... e.g. I can **see** someone in the distance.

communication: agree, deny, disagree, mean, promise, satisfy, surprise..... e.g. they **agree** with you.

thinking: believe, imagine, know, mean, realize, recognize, remember, understand, think..... e.g. He **knows** the truth about your journey.

possession: possess, own, belong, have e.g., Ali **owns** a red a car.

Other states: be, concern, depend, involve, matter, need, owe..... e.g. Dapi **needs** some help in her homework today.