



CAMBRIDGE

# GRAMMAR

# **FOR first** **certificate**

*WITH ANSWERS*

Self-study  
grammar reference  
and practice

**LOUISE HASHEMI and  
BARBARA THOMAS**

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## A Context listening

1 You are going to hear Millie talking on her mobile phone to her friend Lisa. It's Saturday morning. Before you listen, look at the picture. Why do you think Millie is phoning Lisa? .....

.....  
.....



2 **1a** Listen and check if you were right.

3 **1a** Listen again and answer these questions. Write complete sentences.

- 1 What's Millie doing this morning? *She's looking round the shops.* .....
- 2 What does she do nearly every Saturday? .....
- 3 What's she looking for? .....
- 4 What's Lisa wearing? .....
- 5 What's she doing this morning? .....
- 6 What does she do whenever she goes to town? .....
- 7 What's Millie looking at right now? .....
- 8 What does Lisa want Millie to do now? .....

4 Look at your answers to Exercise 3 and answer these questions.

- 1 Look at answers 2 and 6. What tense are they? .....
- 2 Look at answers 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. What tense are they? .....
- 3 Which sentences are about regular actions? .....
- 4 Which sentences are about actions at or around the time of speaking? .....
- 5 Look at answer 8. Does it fit the pattern? .....

## B Grammar

### 1 Present simple

+	verb / verb + -s	<i>She <b>works</b> in London.</i>
-	do / does not + verb	<i>He <b>doesn't work</b> in London.</i>
?	do / does ... + verb?	<i>Where <b>do you work</b>?</i>

We use the **present simple**:

- ◆ to say when things happen if they take place regularly:  
*They **eat lunch at two o'clock**.*
- ◆ to talk about permanent situations:  
*I **work** in London.*
- ◆ to state general truths:  
*Popular CDs **sell** really fast.*  
*The moon **goes** round the earth.*
- ◆ to talk about habits and how often they happen:  
*You **buy** new clothes **every Saturday**.*
- ◆ to describe the plots of books and films:  
*The story **begins** and **ends** in Spain. The year **is** 1937.*

### 2 Present continuous

+	am / is / are + verb + -ing	<i>He's <b>working</b> in London this week.</i>
-	am / is / are not + verb + -ing	<i>I'm <b>not working</b> in London this week.</i>
?	am / is / are ... + verb + -ing?	<i><b>Are you working</b> in London this week?</i>

We use the **present continuous**:

- ◆ to talk about the present moment:  
*I'm **wearing** a pair of old jeans.*  
*I'm **looking** at that CD right now.*
- ◆ to suggest that an action is temporary, often with words like *now*, *at the moment*, *at present* or *just*:  
*They're **eating** lunch **at the moment**.*  
*I'm **working** in London **this week**. (= I don't usually work in London)*
- ◆ for an action around the time of speaking, which has begun but is not finished:  
*I'm **doing** my homework.*  
*I'm **looking** round the shops. (Millie isn't looking round at this moment – she has stopped to talk to Lisa – but she plans to continue looking round later)*
- ◆ for changing or developing situations:  
*That group's **becoming** more well known.*  
*The earth's temperature **is rising**.*
- ◆ with a word like *always* or *continually*, if we want to criticise or complain:  
*You're **always buying** new clothes! (= you buy too many)*  
*I'm **always forgetting** people's names. (= it's very irritating)*
- ◆ with *always* when something unexpected happens several times:  
*I'm **always meeting** my neighbour John near the station. I guess he works somewhere near there.*

### 3 State verbs

These verbs are nearly always used in a simple rather than a continuous tense. They are mostly about thoughts, feelings, belonging and the senses:

... *that special CD* **you want** to get. (~~not you are wanting to~~)

You **don't deserve** to hear it. (~~not you aren't deserving to~~)

The following are some important **state verbs**:

- ◆ thoughts: *believe, know, mean, realise, recognise, remember, suppose, understand, feel (= believe), think (= believe):*

*I **think** you're wrong.*

*We **feel** this letter should be changed.*

▲ *Feel and think are not state verbs when they mean the action:*

*I'm **thinking** about my holiday.*

*We're **feeling** cold.*

- ◆ feelings: *adore, dislike, despise, hate, like, love, want, wish, prefer:*

*They **despise** me because of the way I'm living.*

- ◆ belonging: *belong, have/have got (= possess), own, possess:*

*It **belongs** to my father.*

*The manager **has** the biggest company car.*

▲ *Have can be continuous when it does not mean 'possess':*

*Steve's **having** a difficult time at college this term.*

*Can I phone you back later? We're **having** lunch right now.*

- ◆ senses: *smell, taste, hear, see:*

*This sauce **tastes** disgusting.*

*I **hear** what you're saying to me, but I don't agree.*

***Do** you **see** anything you want to buy here?*

We use *can* with these verbs to show we are talking about this moment:

*I **can see** the postman at the gate.*

*I **can hear** someone in the next room.*

▲ *Taste and smell can be continuous when they mean the action:*

*I'm **tasting** the sauce.*

*See* can be continuous when it means 'meet':

***Are** you **seeing** Tom today?*

▲ *Listen to, watch and look at are not state verbs and can be continuous:*

*I'm **listening to** music and Diane **is watching** a video upstairs.*

- ◆ other state verbs: *contain, deserve, fit, seem, look (= seem), look like, matter, weigh:*

*This medicine **contains** aspirin.*

*Mark **weighs** 70 kilos.*

▲ *Weigh can be continuous when it means the action:*

*The shop assistant's **weighing** the cheese.*

## C Grammar exercises

**1** In five of these sentences there is a verb in the wrong tense. Underline each mistake and write the correction.

- 1 My brother lives with us until he can find a flat of his own. .... is living .....
- 2 These days we're always having tests in school. ....
- 3 I'm not having enough money for a long holiday this year. ....
- 4 Everyone needs a break from work sometimes. ....
- 5 I'm liking a good cup of coffee after lunch. ....
- 6 I must lose weight - I'm weighing over 80 kilos. ....
- 7 Maria is going to the shops every Saturday morning. ....
- 8 What period of history are you studying this term? .....

**2** Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 My father ..... knows ..... (*know*) all about mending cars, but nothing about bicycles.
- 2 A: Why ..... (*you wear*) my coat?  
B: Oh, I'm sorry. It ..... (*look*) like mine in this light.
- 3 This pie ..... (*smell*) a bit odd. What's in it?
- 4 I ..... (*like*) the jacket of this suit, but unfortunately the trousers ..... (*not fit*) me any more.
- 5 You're very quiet this evening. What ..... (*you think*) about?
- 6 A: I ..... (*have*) no idea what this sentence ..... (*mean*).  
Can you translate it?  
B: No, sorry. I ..... (*not understand*) it either.
- 7 A: ..... (*you see*) those men near the door? They ..... (*look*) at us very strangely.  
B: Yes. You're right. .... (*you recognise*) them from anywhere?  
A: No, but they certainly ..... (*seem*) to know us. They ..... (*come*) across to speak to us.
- 8 A: What ..... (*you do*) in the kitchen?  
B: I ..... (*just make*) some coffee.  
A: Well, go away. I ..... (*not want*) your help. Our guests ..... (*wait*) for their dessert, and you ..... (*get*) in my way!
- 9 I played football at school, but now I ..... (*prefer*) swimming or tennis.



**3** Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

behave   come   cost   eat   enjoy   feel   ~~go~~   have   have   have  
 like   love   realise   say   serve   show   smile   stay   take   visit

Dear Stephanie,

How are you? We're fine. Our trip round the States .....is going..... (1) well and we ..... (2) ourselves very much. One good surprise is that things ..... (3) less here than back home. For example, this weekend we ..... (4) in a motel beside a lake. We ..... (5) a room with a beautiful view for only \$35 per night.

The only thing we ..... (not) (6) much is the food. Restaurants ..... (7) dinner rather early. We ..... (never) (8) at six o'clock at home so we ..... (not) (9) hungry then and Americans ..... (10) very big meals. Apart from that, we ..... (11) a wonderful time. We ..... (12) lots of interesting little towns and we ..... (13) the scenery.

People here ..... (14) in a very friendly manner towards strangers, all the shop assistants ..... (15) at us, and everyone ..... (16) 'Have a nice day!' At home, the TV ..... (always) (17) us bad news stories about the States, but in fact, when you ..... (18) here, you ..... (19) it's a really great place.

We ..... (20) lots of photos to show you.

Much love,  
Mick and Mary

**4** Write six true sentences about yourself, using the words in the box and a suitable verb in the correct form.

at the moment   before breakfast   every day  
 most weekends   once a year   ~~right now~~   this term

- 1 I'm doing my homework right now, and I'm listening to a CD.
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....

## D Exam practice

### Listening

**1b** You will hear an interview with a university student.  
For questions **1–7**, choose the best answer, **A**, **B** or **C**.



**1** Today's edition of Study Talk is about an unusual

- A** university.
- B** course.
- C** hobby.

	<b>1</b>
--	----------

**2** What is the subject that Ellis Graham is studying for his degree?

- A** surfing
- B** mathematics
- C** computing

	<b>2</b>
--	----------

**3** What does Jed suggest about most people who enjoy surfing?

- A** They waste time when they should be studying.
- B** They know a lot of unimportant information.
- C** They are not very intelligent.

	<b>3</b>
--	----------

**4** Ellis says the course he is doing at university

- A** is extremely popular.
- B** accepts people who failed on other courses.
- C** attracts applications from other universities.

	<b>4</b>
--	----------

**5** What does Ellis make Jed understand?

- A** Jed needs to practise seriously to be a good surfer.
- B** Jed had the wrong idea about Ellis's studies.
- C** Jed does not have to work as hard as the students.

	<b>5</b>
--	----------

**6** What plans does Ellis say he has for the future?

- A** to travel to other countries
- B** to join a research project
- C** to start a business

	<b>6</b>
--	----------

**7** Ellis has problems with Jed's last question because

- A** it involves discussing something secret.
- B** he is unsure of the facts.
- C** it's hard to find uncrowded beaches.

	<b>7</b>
--	----------