

UNIT 1

Present simple and present continuous

The present simple is used to talk about

a actions done regularly or frequently, often with adverbs like **never, seldom, occasionally, sometimes, often, usually** and **always**:

- *David usually plays football on Saturday.*
- *What do you do in the evenings?*

b facts that are always or usually true:

- *Elephants don't eat meat.*
- *She comes from Cairo.*

The present continuous is used to talk about things that are happening now, at the moment of speaking, often with adverbs like **now, at the moment, at present, today, this week**, etc:

- *Elena is writing a letter at the moment. She's writing to Maria.*

A Complete the sentences, using the present simple or the present continuous.

- 1 He always _____ chocolate after lunch. (eat)
- 2 I can't come. I _____ my mother. (help)
- 3 They _____ hard enough at present. (not / study)
- 4 They often _____ coffee in the evenings. (drink)
- 5 Clara occasionally _____ to the theatre. (go)
- 6 Yukiko _____ a bath now. (have)
- 7 We _____ a cake at the moment. (make)
- 8 I never _____ cigarettes. (smoke)
- 9 She _____ her hair twice a week. (wash)
- 10 Lisa _____ her sister's car today. (drive)
- 11 The Amazon _____ into the Atlantic. (flow)
- 12 Many birds _____ south for the winter. (fly)

B Write full sentences using the information given.

EXAMPLE: You / enjoy / the party? *Are you enjoying the party?*

- 1 You / speak / Greek? _____
- 2 Bill / know / Mr Jameson? _____
- 3 We / not live / in a large house. _____
- 4 Alexander / not go / to the beach very often. _____
- 5 I / have to / attend the ceremony? _____
- 6 Jane / watch / television at the moment? _____
- 7 Costas / not work / in a bank. _____
- 8 The children / not listen / to their mother now. _____
- 9 Theo / live / in New York? _____
- 10 William / study / at the moment? _____
- 11 Where / you / usually spend / your holidays? _____
- 12 I / not earn much money at present. _____

The following verbs do **not** normally take the **continuous** form:

- *believe, belong, contain, dislike, doubt, hate, impress, know, like, love, mean, need, owe, own, prefer, resemble, seem, suppose, surprise, understand, want, wish*

The following verbs can be used in the **simple or continuous** form but with different meanings:

- *appear, feel, see, smell, taste, think*

C Complete the sentences, using the correct present tense of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 A famous actress _____ in a play at the local theatre. (appear)
- 2 I'm sure she _____ tea to coffee. (prefer)
- 3 His story _____ to be true. (appear)
- 4 George _____ of visiting Turkey this summer. (think)
- 5 Rupert says the book _____ to him. (belong)
- 6 The director _____ that would be a mistake. (believe)
- 7 Louisa _____ having supper late. (hate)
- 8 This pasta _____ simply delicious. (taste)
- 9 There _____ to be something wrong with the photocopier. (seem)
- 10 *Now* I _____ what the teacher _____. (understand, mean)
- 11 You'd better not drink that milk. It _____ bad. (smell)
- 12 Frank _____ me a lot of money! (owe)

D Complete the sentences, using the correct present tense of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 He usually _____ very hard, but he _____ at all today because it's a holiday. (work, not / work)
- 2 Look! That man _____ out of the bank! And he _____ a large bag full of money! (run, carry)
- 3 I don't mind babysitting for you. Your baby never _____. (cry)
- 4 Every time he _____ a photo, his hand _____, and his photos never _____ good. (take, shake, look)
- 5 'Can you come out for a drink with us later?' 'Sorry, I _____ Liza with her work, and it'll take us hours to finish it.' (help)
- 6 She usually _____ a BMW, but today she _____ her husband's Volvo. (drive)
- 7 'Where do you live?' 'Normally I _____ in Paris with my parents, but at the moment I _____ in London, so I _____ with an English family.' (live, study, live)
- 8 I know you _____ because you _____ out of the window! (not / listen, look)
- 9 Julia _____ five languages fluently, and at the moment she _____ as a translator. (speak, work)
- 10 I _____ three pullovers in winter because I always _____ cold. (wear, feel)
- 11 Wood _____ on water. (float)
- 12 'Why _____ you _____?' 'Because nobody _____ me, that's why!' (cry, love)