

Simple Present vs Present Continuous

B1 / B2 Level | Grammar Lesson Plan | For Teacher Use

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

Teacher Notes	Level: B1 / B2 Time: 60-90 mins Exercises: 5 Answers: See answer key (separate)
---------------	---

SECTION 1 – Grammar Explanation

Simple Present – Key Uses

Use	Example
Habits and routines	She checks her emails every morning.
Permanent situations	He works for a large pharmaceutical company.
Facts and general truths	The Amazon flows into the Atlantic Ocean.
Timetables and schedules	The conference starts at 9 a.m. on Monday.
Narrative / sports commentary	He passes to Messi, who shoots and scores!

Present Continuous – Key Uses

Use	Example
Actions happening at this moment	The CEO is currently negotiating a new deal.
Temporary situations	I am staying with colleagues while my flat is being renovated.
Changing or developing situations	Global temperatures are rising every year.
Planned future arrangements	We are meeting the clients in Berlin next Tuesday.
Repeated actions with 'always' (irritation)	He is always interrupting people in meetings!

Stative Verbs – Important Note

Some verbs are not normally used in the continuous form (stative verbs):

Category	Examples	Correct sentence
Thinking	know, believe, understand, realise	I know the answer. (NOT: I am knowing)
Feeling / emotion	love, hate, prefer, want, need	She wants a promotion. (NOT: She is wanting)
Perception	see, hear, smell, taste	It smells delicious. (NOT: It is smelling)
Possession	have, own, belong, contain	He owns three properties. (NOT: He is owning)

Some verbs can be both – meaning changes!

Verb	Simple present (stative)	Present continuous (active)
have	She has a car. (possession)	She is having lunch. (activity)
think	I think it is a good idea. (opinion)	I am thinking about the proposal. (process)
see	I see what you mean. (understand)	I am seeing the doctor tomorrow. (appointment)

EXERCISE 1 – True or False?

Read each statement. Write True or False in the space provided.

No.	Statement	True / False
1.	We can use the present continuous to talk about future arrangements.	_____
2.	Stative verbs such as 'know' and 'believe' are commonly used in the continuous form.	_____
3.	The sentence 'She is always losing her keys' expresses mild irritation.	_____
4.	'The train leaves at 6 a.m.' uses the present continuous to describe a timetable.	_____
5.	The present continuous can describe a situation that is gradually changing.	_____
6.	'I am understanding the problem' is correct English.	_____
7.	'He thinks the plan is risky' expresses an opinion using the simple present.	_____
8.	We use the simple present for sports commentary and live narration.	_____
9.	'She is having a car' is correct because 'have' can always be used continuously.	_____
10.	'We are meeting the director on Friday' can refer to a future arrangement.	_____

EXERCISE 2 – Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

- Global sea levels _____ as a result of climate change. (ongoing trend)
a) rise b) are rising c) rises
- She _____ the marketing team every Thursday. (routine)
a) is meeting b) meets c) meet
- I _____ whether to accept the job offer. (mental process)
a) think b) am thinking c) thinks
- The flight _____ at 07:45 tomorrow morning. (timetable)
a) is leaving b) leaves c) leave
- He _____ always _____ the budget without consulting the team. (irritation)
a) is/exceeding b) does/exceed c) has/exceeded
- I _____ what you mean - the report is misleading. (stative)
a) am seeing b) see c) sees
- They _____ a new factory in Vietnam at the moment. (in progress)
a) build b) built c) are building
- This sauce _____ incredible. (perception)
a) is tasting b) tastes c) taste
- We _____ the new product line next month. (future arrangement)
a) launch b) are launching c) launches
- The report _____ that consumer confidence is falling. (general truth)
a) is suggesting b) suggests c) suggest

EXERCISE 3 – Matching

Match each sentence (1-10) with the correct grammatical use (a-j).

Sentence	Answer	Description
1. She is always forgetting to attach files to her emails. _____	_____	a. a fact or general truth
2. The summit takes place every two years. _____	_____	b. a regular scheduled event
3. Scientists are discovering new species in the deep ocean. _____	_____	c. an ongoing research or discovery process
4. I think the proposal needs more detail. _____	_____	d. an opinion (stative verb)
5. We are presenting to the board next Wednesday. _____	_____	e. a future arrangement
6. He owns a chain of restaurants across Europe. _____	_____	f. a permanent situation
7. The situation is becoming increasingly complicated. _____	_____	g. a developing or changing situation
8. He passes to Kane - and it is a goal! _____	_____	h. live sports commentary
9. I am currently working from home. _____	_____	i. a temporary situation
10. Water freezes at 0 degrees C. _____	_____	j. repeated action expressing irritation

EXERCISE 4 – Word Order

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

No.	Words	Your sentence
1.	always / colleagues / interrupting / his / he / is	_____
2.	the / conference / at / begins / 9 a.m.	_____
3.	are / they / a / currently / new / developing / product	_____
4.	believe / the / I / is / misleading / report	_____
5.	are / sea / rising / levels / gradually	_____
6.	she / the / meets / every / board / month	_____
7.	are / we / the / presenting / to / investors / tomorrow	_____
8.	the / belongs / collection / museum / to / the	_____
9.	is / the / becoming / situation / complicated / increasingly	_____
10.	scores / he / and / shoots / Ronaldo / passes / to	_____