

# The Present tenses

Simple Present and Present  
Continuous

# Simple Present

We form affirmative statements with a subject and a verb or a verb + -s or -es

*I like tennis      Mary likes tennis*

We use the auxiliary verbs do/does to form negative statements, questions and short answers

*We don't like football    John doesn't like baseball    Why do you like tennis?  
Do you like squash?    Does John like baseball?    What does the referee do?  
Yes, we do                      No, he doesn't*

# Uses of the present simple

- To describe repeated actions or habits  
*I get up at seven every morning*
- To talk about things that are always or generally true  
*The sun sets in the west*
- To describe a permanent situation or a condition with no definite start or finish but which is true now  
*We live in London*
- With adverbs of frequency such as always, usually, ...  
*She often studies in the library*
- With time expressions such as every day/ week/ year, in the morning/ afternoon/ evening and at night  
*I go to the gym once a week*
- To express future meaning with actions and events that are part of a fixed timetable  
*The train leaves at 8'30*
- To describe a scene in the past in a vivid way  
*Then he comes and says ...*

# Verb endings

## Present Simple

- We add –s to most verbs: *walks, gets, ...*
- We add –es to verbs that end in sh, ch, ss or o: *finishes, goes, catches, ...*
- If a verb ends in a consonant +y, we change the y to i and add –es: *tries, studies, ...*
- If a verb ends in a vowel +y, we add –s: *pays, plays, ...*

# Present Continuous

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We form the Present Continuous tense with the present tense of be + a verb + -ing

*They are playing baseball*

*They aren't succeeding*

*Who is winning?*

*Why is that player running now?*

# Uses of the Present Continuous

- To talk about something which is in progress at the moment of speaking  
*It is raining now*
- To talk about something which is in progress around the present, but not exactly at the time of speaking  
*Peter is looking for a job these days*
- To talk about situations which are developing or temporary  
*Computers are becoming more and more important in our lives*
- With adverbs such as always or constantly to express complaints and annoyance  
*He is always calling me late at night*
- With time expressions such as now, at the moment, at present, these days, nowadays and today  
*I'm writing an e-mail right now*
- To talk about future arrangements or plans  
*I'm meeting Peter tomorrow*

# Verb endings

## Present Continuous

- For most verbs, we add –ing: *starting, playing, studying, ...*
- If the verb ends in a consonant +e, we drop –e and add –ing: *living, deciding, ...*
- If the verb has one syllable and ends in a single vowel + a consonant, we double the consonant and add –ing: *stopping, planning, ...*

## Exceptions:

- If the verb ends in w or x, we don't double the final consonant: *fixing, showing, ...*
- If the verb has 2 syllables, ends in a vowel + a consonant and the stress on the last syllable, it doubles the final consonant: *preferring, beginning*
- If the verb has 2 syllables and ends in –l, it doubles the l: *travelling*
- If the verb ends in –ie, it changes –ie to –y and adds –ing: *tying, dying*

# Stative and action verbs

## Stative verbs

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They describe a state. Something that is and stays the same

*He seems very tired*

There are different types:

- Verbs of senses: feel, see, sound, hear, smell, taste
- Verbs of mental states: believe, realise, remember, know, ...
- Verbs of possession: belong, have, own, possess
- Verbs of feeling or emotion: like, hate, adore, love, wish, ...
- Verbs of measurement: weigh, contain, cost, measure
- Other verbs that express states: be, exist, seem, owe, require

# Stative and action verbs

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## Action verbs

An action verb describes an action, something that happens

*I'm reading*

*Action verbs can be in the continuous form*

I read a book every week

This week, I'm reading Moby Dick

# Stative and action verbs

## Change of meaning

Some verbs change their meaning depending if we use them in the progressive or non-progressive form

Think

*He thinks it is a good idea*

*He is thinking about eating a biscuit*

Have

*She has (got) a mobile phone*

*She's having a great time*

*She's having breakfast*

## Verbs of seeing and hearing

Action verbs: watch, look at, listen to

Non-action verbs: see, hear

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