

Present Simple or Continuous?

What's the difference between present simple (I work) and present continuous (I'm working)? This lesson will help you understand it.

Use **present simple** for things that happen **in general** or **regularly**.

Use **present continuous** for things happening **now, at the moment**, or **current/temporary projects**.

PRESENT SIMPLE	PRESENT CONTINUOUS
I work from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day.	I'm currently working on a new project.
Mark studies English every Tuesday night.	Mark is studying the present continuous this week.
We usually go to Europe in the summer.	Right now, we're going to the supermarket.
They always talk to their boss in the morning.	It's 9:00 AM. They're talking to him now.
Does it usually rain in the winter?	No, but it's raining at the moment. Take an umbrella.

Words that are often used with the present simple or continuous:

- With **present simple**: always, usually, often, sometimes, never, every (day/night/Monday/summer/year)
- With **present continuous**: now, right now, at the moment, currently, this week/month/year, today

Quiz on the next page

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Quiz: Present Simple or Continuous

Select the correct option:

1. They always are going / go to the gym after work.
2. He normally works / is working every weekday, but today he works / isn't working because it's a holiday.
3. "Where are you going / do you go?"
4. "To my grandmother's house - see you later!"
5. How often are you cleaning / do you clean your house?
6. Jane is cold because she doesn't wear / she's not wearing a jacket.
7. My colleagues normally are eating / eat lunch in the office.
8. How many children are you having / do you have?
9. My husband is playing / plays tennis three times a week.
10. Please turn down the music; I try / I'm trying to study.
11. Watch out! Your son is running / runs into the street!
12. "What does she do / is she doing?"
13. "She's baking a cake."
14. Rita doesn't know / isn't knowing how to ride a bike.
15. "Where's mom?"
16. "She takes / She's taking a shower."
17. Yes, I can talk now. I don't drive / I'm not driving.
18. My cousin never gives / is giving me a birthday present.

Quiz Answers: Present Simple or Continuous?

1. go
2. works / isn't working
3. are you going
4. do you clean
5. she's not wearing
6. eat
7. do you have
8. plays
9. I'm trying
10. is running
11. is she doing
12. doesn't know
13. She's taking
14. I'm not driving
15. gives

