

UNIT ONE

Present Time: Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect Simple, Present Perfect Continuous, Stative Verbs

Present Simple

Form	<i>statement: I/you/we/they travel...</i>	<i>He/she/it travels...</i>
	<i>negative: I/you/we/they don't travel...</i>	<i>He/she/it doesn't travel...</i>
	<i>question: Do I/you/we/they travel...?</i>	<i>Does he/she/it travel...?</i>

Use	Example
Current habits	<i>Toby walks to work.</i>
To talk about how often things happen	<i>Angela doesn't visit us very often.</i>
Permanent situations	<i>Carlo works in a travel agent's.</i>
States	<i>Do you have an up-to-date passport?</i>
General truths and facts	<i>Poland is in the European Union.</i>



- We can also use *do/does* in present simple statements for emphasis.
- ✓ “You *don't* like going by bus, do you?” “Actually, I *do like* going by bus for short distances.”
- ✓ The bus isn't quicker than the train but it *does stop* right

Words and phrases often used with the present simple

always/ usually/ generally/ often/ sometimes/ rarely/ seldom / never / whenever/ nowadays / these days / from time to time/ every now and then/ most/much of the time/ It's or That's the last time

Present Continuous

Form	<p>statement: <i>I am driving... You/we/they are driving... He/she/it is driving...</i></p> <p>negative: <i>I'm not driving... You/we/they aren't driving... or You're/we're/they're not driving... He/she/it isn't driving... or He's/she's/it's not driving...</i></p> <p>question: <i>Am I driving...? Are you/we/they driving...? Is he/she/it driving...?</i></p>
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Use	Example
Actions happening now	<i>Mike is driving to work at the moment.</i>
Temporary series of actions	<i>Taxi drivers aren't stopping at the train station because of the roadworks.</i>
Temporary situations	<i>Are they staying in a hotel near the Olympic stadium?</i>
Changing and developing situations	<i>Holidays abroad are becoming increasingly popular.</i>
Annoying habits (usually with <i>always</i>)	<i>Dad is always cleaning the car when I want to use it!</i>

Words and phrases often used with the present continuous

now / right now / for now/ currently/ at the moment / for the time being/ at present /today / this week/etc. / It's or That's the last time

A. Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, present simple or present continuous, in each gap.

- My brother _____ (do) a degree at university so I _____ (see) him very often, unfortunately.
- Darren _____ usually _____ (get) home until about eight o'clock.
- I'm sorry to hear that your parents _____ (get) divorced.
- You _____ (go) to the end of the street and _____ (turn) right.
- Why _____ ice _____ (float)?
- My dad _____ (eat) meat at all—he's a vegetarian.
- _____ you _____ (phone) me from your mobile? The line's not very good.
- _____ you often _____ (order) things online?
- My dad _____ (always/ tell) jokes! They're usually rubbish, though.
- Actually, he _____ (wear) a tie to work most days.

B. Write one word in each gap. The words you supply should related to time signals.

1. Why do you _____ leave the light on when you go out of the room? You wait till you start paying the electricity bill!
2. Fifteen teachers are teaching here full-time at _____.
3. My sister's revising for her GCSEs at the _____.
4. I'm quite happy living at home for the time _____, but I guess I'll have to get my own place eventually.
5. It's true that Ralph calls us quite _____, but most students only call their parents when they need something, don't they?
6. We go to the cinema _____ now and then, but only if there's something good on.
7. I'm alone in my study bedroom reading _____ of the time.
8. Tim _____ goes out to play until he's done all his homework. I just don't allow it!
9. I see Lucinda from _____ to time, but not on a regular basis.
10. I'm sitting in the garden _____ now talking to you on my mobile.
11. That's the last _____ we're inviting Dave to one of our parties!
12. Do young people these _____ have more free time than they did in the past?
13. My mum fills up with petrol _____ she goes to the supermarket.
14. I'm staying in _____ now, but I might go out a bit later on.
15. _____ is the last time I ever order from that pizzeria. It was disgusting!

Present Perfect Simple

Form	have/has + past participle	
	statement: I/you/we/they have flown ...	He/she/it has flown ...
	negative: I/you/we/they haven't flown ...	He/she/it hasn't flown ...
	question: Have I/you/we/they flown ...?	Has he/she/it flown ...?

Use	Example
Situations and states that started in the past and are still true	<i>She's had her motorbike for over six years.</i>
A series of actions continuing up to now	<i>We've travelled by taxi, bus, plane and train – all in the last twenty-four hours!</i>
Completed actions at a time in the past which is not mentioned	<i>Have you ever flown in a helicopter?</i>
Completed actions where the important thing is the present result	<i>I've booked the coach tickets.</i>



- Phrases such as *It's the first/second/etc. time...* are followed by the present perfect simple.
- ✓ *It's the second time I've **been** on a plane.*

US vs UK Grammar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speakers of American English often use the past simple in situations where speakers of British English would use the present perfect simple. US: <i>We already saw the Sphinx.</i> UK: <i>We've already seen the Sphinx.</i> ▪ Speakers of American English use <i>gotten</i> as the past participle of the verb <i>get</i>, except when <i>get</i> means <i>have</i> or <i>possess</i>. Speakers of British English only ever use <i>got</i>. US: <i>We've already gotten Dan a new backpack for his summer vacation.</i> UK: <i>We've already got Dan a new rucksack for his summer holiday.</i>

Present Perfect Continuous

Form statement: *I/you/we/they have been travelling... He/she/it has been travelling...*
 negative: *I/you/we/they haven't been travelling... He/she/it hasn't been travelling...*
 question: *Have I/you/we/they been travelling...? Has he/she/it been travelling...?*

Use	Example
Actions continuing up to the present moment	<i>We have been driving for hours. Can't we have a break soon?</i>
Actions stopping just before the present moment	<i>I'm out of breath because I've been running to get here in time.</i>

Watch out!

- The present perfect continuous is often used with words and phrases like *all day/week/year/etc.*, *for*, *since*, *just*, etc.
- ✓ *We've been walking for hours and I need a rest.*
- The present perfect continuous is **not** normally used with the words *ever* and *never*.
- ✓ *Have you ever flown in a helicopter before?*
- ✗ ~~*Have you ever been flying in a helicopter before?*~~
- Sometimes there is very little difference in meaning between the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous and sometimes there is a difference in meaning.
- ✓ *I have worked at the airport for four years. = I have been working at the airport for four years.*
- ✓ *I have read that book about cruise ships. (I have finished it.) I have been reading that book about cruise ships. (I have not finished it.)*

C Circle the correct word or phrase. If both are correct, circle both.

1. They've **filled** / **been filling** over six bags with rubbish from the beach already.
2. Have you **followed**/ **been following** that story in the papers about the elephant that escaped from the zoo?
3. Apparently, they've just **caught**/ **been catching** it.
4. It's the first time I've **heard** / **been hearing** *The Editors* play live.
5. Jake and I have **thought**/ **been thinking** about where to go on holiday for weeks ,but we just can't decide.
6. You can't want to go to the toilet already - we've only **driven** / **been driving** for about ten minutes so far!
7. I've **stood** / **been standing** up all day and my feet are killing me!
8. Has Jan **worked** / **been working** for the company since it started?
9. It's the first time I have ever **eaten**/ **been eating** octopus!
10. I've not **finished**/ **been finishing** the book yet so I can't tell you what happens.

Stative Verbs

Stative verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses because they don't describe actions.

- ✓ I see what you mean.
- ✗ ~~I am seeing what you mean.~~

Use	Example
Stative verbs often refer to:	
thinking	<i>believe, imagine, know, mean, think, understand</i>
existence	<i>be, exist</i>
emotions	<i>hate, like, love, need, prefer, satisfy, want</i>
the human senses	<i>hear, see, smell, sound, taste</i>
appearance	<i>appear, look, resemble, seem</i>
possession and relationships between things	<i>belong to, consist of, have, include, involve, own</i>

Watch out!

- Some verbs (such as *be, have, imagine, look, see, smell, taste, think*) are stative with one meaning and non-stative with another meaning.
- ✓ *Do you **have** your plane ticket with you?* (state: possession)
- ✓ *Are you **having** lunch at the moment?* (action: eating)

D Rewrite correctly. Change the words or phrases in bold.

1. My Dad is **often getting up** late on Saturday mornings. => _____
2. **Are you speaking** any other languages apart from English? => _____
3. **I already buy** all my Christmas presents ,and it's only October! => _____
4. It's the first time **I'm ever having** a party at home. => _____
5. Actually, I think Darren **does works** quite hard sometimes. => _____
6. Carlo is **never eating** Chinese food before. => _____
7. Sean **already books** a table for tonight. => _____
8. **Needs Melanie** any help painting her new flat? => _____

E Complete the sentences, using the words in the box.

already – before – ever – for – just – rarely – since – so – still – yet

1. I've _____ realized what's different! You've changed your hair.
2. We've had broadband at home _____ about 2005.
3. We can't cancel the party now—I've _____ invited everyone!
4. Have you _____ thought of going into business on your own?
5. We haven't started _____ so you can join in if you like.
6. We've never been to New York _____, so we're both really looking forward to it.
7. I _____ haven't found my sunglasses.
8. I've been looking for a website like this _____ ages!
9. The company's profits have been steadily increasing so _____ this quarter.
10. He has _____ missed a deadline during his career—only once due to unforeseen circumstances."