

## PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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**Annotation:** *Many beginners misunderstand the Present Simple and Present Continuous tenses. Today, we'll discuss how they differ from one another, what those differences are, and when to utilize Present Simple and Present Continuous.*

**Key words:** *auxiliary verb, semantic verb, singular nouns, suffix, consonant, vowel, signal words.*

A statement generated in the present simple tense lacks an auxiliary verb. The subject is put in the first position in the sentence, while the semantic verb is put in the second. An object or a pronoun can act as the topic. The verb ends in –s (-es) when used with the singular nouns he, she, it. The verb remains the same in all other circumstances.

### FORMULA:

I, We, You, They + VERB.

HE, SHE, IT + VERB + -s (-es).

I read. We draw. You eat. They drive.

He swims. She writes. It barks.

When a verb ends in -o, -y, -s, -sh, -ch, -tch, -x, or -z, the suffix -es is added. This is done to prevent two challenging sounds from coexisting in a word.

Verbs with a -y ending are equally important to pay attention to. Two forms of endings are used here:

o If the word ends in a consonant and -y, the ending -es is used and "y" is replaced with "i":

*You cry – She cries.*

*They try – Hy tries.*

o If the word ends in a vowel and -y, the ending -s is attached to the verb, and the "y" remains in its place.

*I say – He says.*

*We play – She plays.*

Present Simple and Present Continuous have different grammatical structures.

Present Continuous Tense is formed from the auxiliary verb to be and the main verb. The verb to be takes the desired form depending on the person of the

subject (am, is, are), and the particle to leaves the main verb and the ending -ing appears.

**FORMULA:**

I + AM + VERB + ING.

HE, SHE, IT + IS + VERB + ING.

WE, THEY + ARE + VERB + ING.

I am singing.

He is cooking. She is reading. It is eating.

We are enjoying. They are playing.

As a general rule, the ending -ing is added to the verb. But in some cases, adding the ending -ing entails the transformation of the word.

Verbs ending in -e have their final vowel removed.

Phone - phoning, change - changing, have - having.

For verbs ending in -ie, the -ie vowels are replaced with -y.

Lie -lying, tie - tying, die - dying.

If the verb ends in a short vowel with a consonant, then that consonant is doubled.

Swim - swimming, stop - stopping, get - getting.

Negative sentences.

Negative sentences in Present Simple and Present Continuous are formed using an auxiliary verb and a negative particle not.

Present Simple - the auxiliary verb do or its form does is used if the subject is expressed by the pronouns he, she, it or singular nouns. Thus, the ending -s from the main verb passes to the auxiliary. The particle not is located between the main and auxiliary verbs.

**FORMULA:**

I, WE, YOU, THEY + DO NOT (DON`T) + VERB.

HE, SHE, IT + DOES NOT (DOESN`T) + VERB.

I do not (don`t) read. We do not (don`t) draw. You do not (don`t) eat. They do not (don`t) drive.

He does not (doesn`t) swim. She does not (doesn`t) write. It does not (doesn`t) bark.

Unlike Present Simple, Present Continuous uses an auxiliary verb to form an affirmative sentence. Therefore, in order to turn a statement into a negation, it is enough to add the particle not. The predicate looks like this: the verb to be, after it the particle not and then the main verb.

**FORMULA:**

I + AM + NOT + VERB + ING.

HE, SHE, IT + IS + NOT + VERB + ING.

WE, THEY + ARE + NOT + VERB + ING.

I am not singing.

He is not cooking. She not is reading. It is not eating.

We are not enjoying. They are not playing.

Interrogative sentences.

The question in Present Simple is asked using the auxiliary verb do (does), which takes the first place in the sentence. The second place is occupied by the subject, and the third by the main verb.

**FORMULA:**

DO + I, We, You, They + VERB?

DOES + HE, SHE, IT + VERB?

Do I read? Do we draw? Do you eat? Do they drive?

Does he swim? Does she write? Does it bark?

When forming an interrogative sentence in Present Continuous, similar permutations occur: to be is placed in the first place, then the subject is also followed, and after it is the main verb.

**FORMULA:**

AM + I + VERB + ING?

IS + HE, SHE, IT + VERB + ING?

ARE + WE, THEY + VERB + ING?

Am I singing?

Is he cooking? Is she reading? Is it eating?

Are we enjoying? Are they playing?

Present Simple and Present Continuous - use cases.

1. Daily activities.

If we are talking about regular actions or daily routine, then Present Simple is used.

Signal words: always, usually, often, sometimes, occasionally, seldom, rarely, never; in the morning/afternoon/evening; every day/week/month/year.

I go to school every day. She always eats meat for dinner. He sometimes plays football with his friends.

If the action occurs at the moment of speech, then the Present Continuous is used.

Signal words: now, at the moment, still (until now), as well as the words look, listen, etc., indicating that the action is happening at the moment of speech.

I am cooking now. She is doing her homework at the moment.

Look! They are talking.

2. Permanent or temporary states and actions.

Permanent - Present Simple.

I live in Uzbekistan. She works as a teacher.

Temporary - Present Continuous.

She is reading a book by Herbert Wells. He is working as an engineer these days.

3. Public truths, facts and laws of nature.

In such cases, the Present Simple is used.

The earth revolves around the sun. It often rains in autumn in our country.

If these are changing and progressive actions - Present Continuous. Often in such sentences, adjectives in the comparative degree are used.

It is getting hotter these days. The Internet is working slower.

4. Events taking place according to the schedule, program.

Timetables of trains, planes, buses; TV programs, official meetings, conferences, etc. - Present Simple.

The bus arrives at the station at 5 o'clock. The concert starts at 7 p.m.

If these are personal plans, agreements scheduled for the near future, often with place and time indicators - Present Continuous.

Mr. Brown is arriving at the train station tomorrow at 12.00. We are meeting at school tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

5. Instructions and manuals.

The Present Simple is often used colloquially in place of the imperative in recipes, route explanations, and other instructions.

First you add flour then sugar.

7. Repetitive actions or negative emotions.

If we are talking about frequently repeated actions, and the sentence itself conveys irritation or surprise, then Present Continuous is used with the words always, constantly, continuously, all the time.

Bob is always talking during lesson. Lisa is always phoning me early in the morning.