

Continue



The best way of teaching the present tenses is to compare and contrast them. These ideas will show you how to do the even more difficult task of combining them in practice activities, all of them done in simple and entertaining ways. There are many well-known and fun activities for the Present Continuous, such as ones involving miming and ones using pictures of crowded street scenes. There are also quite a few things you can find in photocopyable activity books for the Present Simple, such as timetables where students have to fill the gaps in by asking each other questions. However, by far the easiest and clearest way of showing the meanings and uses of the Present Simple and Present Continuous tenses is to contrast them. Perhaps the main reason why this approach isn't used more in the classroom is that it can be difficult to find speaking and writing activities with a natural mix of the two tenses. These activities aim to do away with that lack once and for all!

1. Mimes plus Give students a list of Present Continuous sentences that they can mime to their partners for them to guess, e.g. You are eating bread and jam. You can add the Present Simple to this by choosing actions that some people do every day (e.g. You are eating spicy food and You are blowing your nose) and asking them to go on to discuss how often they do those things and why. This is more interesting if it is a topic that is linked to cultural differences, e.g. table manners.

2. Mimes plus Two Another way of combining Present Continuous mimes with the Present Simple is to ask students to mime actions that they do in their real lives (perhaps choosing from a list with sentences like You are taking a shower). The people watching the mimes have to make a Present Continuous sentence to describe the action and also make a true Present Simple sentence about the person miming and that action (e.g. You take a shower every morning or You sometimes take a shower but you usually take a bath).

3. Definitions game Give students a list of words and ask them to choose one and describe it with just sentences using the Present Simple and Preset Continuous. For example, if the word is breathe they could say I do this many many times every day and Everyone in the world is doing this now except some divers.

4. 20 questions With the same list of words as in Definitions Game above, students ask each other Present Simple and Present Continuous Yes/No questions until they guess which of the words their partner chose. Possible questions include Are you doing this now?, Is anyone in this class doing this now?, Are many people in this city doing this now?, Do you do this every day? and Do you do this more than twice a week?

5. Postcards Ask students to imagine that they are writing a postcard while they are sitting on the balcony of their hotel room, on the beach or outside a caf. They should naturally use the Present Continuous to describe what is happening at the moment they are writing (e.g. The sun is shining or The children are playing beach volleyball) and the Present Simple for their daily routine while on holiday (e.g. I spend most of the day next to the swimming pool or I have breakfast in the same caf every morning), but you could also specifically ask them to stick to those tenses. Alternatively, you could give them sentence stems that should get them using those two tenses, e.g. All around me or In the evenings You can then get students to read other peoples postcards with a task to do as they are reading, for example to guess which place the person writing was supposed to be in or to choose the best holiday.

6. Chain postcards Especially if you have prepared sentence stems for the start of each line of the postcard, you can combine the ideas in Postcards above with the famously fun game Chain Writing (= Consequences). Each person fills in the first line of a postcard, e.g. completing I am writing to you from with the best holiday resort ever or the hills of Tuscany. They fold over the paper so that the next person can't see what they have written and pass it to the next person for them to continue the postcard. They continue writing and passing until the postcards are finished, then they are passed one last time and opened for general hilarity and a discussion about which postcards make most sense, sound like the best holiday and/or are funniest.

7. Present Simple and Continuous taboo topics The strange thing about the use of the Present Continuous to talk about the present is that we actually rarely use it in conversation, and least of all to ask typical textbook questions like What are you wearing? In fact, questions like What kind of underwear are you wearing? are basically taboo. We can take advantage of this by giving a list of such taboo Present Continuous questions mixed up with similarly taboo Present Simple questions like How often do you shave your armpits? If we sprinkle in a few more typical and harmless questions such as What time do you usually get up?, we can ask students to rank the questions from 5 points (taboo) to 1 point (easy to answer), then decide on which ranking of question they want to be asked. How many points they actually get depends on how well they answer the question. For example, if they ask for a four point question (usually uncomfortable to answer but not really taboo) and kind of answer it but with lots of pausing and some avoiding of the question, their partners can decide to reward them with two points (half the total of four points that they could have got).

8. Ask and tell Students make Present Continuous and Present Simple questions, then flip a coin to see whether they will have to answer the question themselves (tails = tell) or be allowed to ask the question to someone else (heads = ask). This is more fun that it sounds because many present tense questions are quite personal and the person who has made the question will often be dismayed by having to answer their own question. You can make this more risky and add vocabulary by suggesting words and expressions that they can or must include in their questions, e.g. snore and itchy. Alternatively, they could roll a dice to decide which tense they should use in their questions (e.g. Present Simple if they throw a one, two or three), or the topic they should ask about (e.g. families if they throw a one).

9. Time zones If you give students a list of countries in different time zones, they should be able to make sentences about what is probably happening there right now, as well as their impressions of what daily life is like, e.g. People are probably coming home from bars about now. I think they often stay up until very late but sleep after lunch to describe their picture of Spanish life. Their partners should listen and guess the country.

10. Guess the person You can also get the students to describe and guess different kinds of people from what they are (probably) doing now and their routines, e.g. your mother-in-law from She texts my husband several times a day and At this time she is probably doing a flower arrangement class.

11. Describe a photo Perhaps the most natural situation in which to use a mix of the two tenses is to describe a photo containing people that you know, for example The person standing next to my brother is his girlfriend. She lives in Canada, so they only meet a few times a year.

12. Tour guides A group of people who probably use the two tenses together more than the rest of us is tour guides, for example to explain what is happening in a painting and how many people come to see it every day. The same language is fairly natural to describe Tower Bridge opening, Big Ben striking twelve, and a herd of wildebeest running across the plains. You can use this situation by asking students to guess the tourist site from the descriptions and then make up their own descriptions for other people to guess from, or with roleplays in which the people on the tour keep on asking more and more questions.

13. Test your classmates Students test each other on the present dress and actions and routines of their classmates with questions like What is George wearing on his feet? and Does Ronaldo often wear glasses? Students will need to have their eyes closed when they are being tested, and they might need to check some of the answers with the person who the question is about.

14. Sentence completion Give students incomplete sentences for them to complete to give true personal information, e.g. I am feeling _____, I often feel _____, I rarely _____ and My brother is _____. Students read out just the part they have filled in (e.g. cook or hungover) and their partners guess which sentence they put those words in.

15. Discussion questions You can easily make discussion questions with the Present Simple and Present Continuous, e.g. What things are getting better in your country? and Do people in your country pay attention to government campaigns? Why/why not? You can also use both tenses for sentences that students should agree or disagree with, e.g. People buy brands because they think they are better quality and People are slowly becoming more ecologically friendly in their lifestyles. Alternatively, you can give questions which aren't written in those tenses but should elicit answers that are, e.g. Describe the changes in the economy of your country at the moment. Index of contents Video: describing activities Want to talk about what you do every day and what you're doing right now? These worksheets will help you master the Present Simple (for routines and facts) and the Present Continuous (for actions happening now). Through fun activities and clear examples, you'll learn to use both tenses correctly and confidently. See more: Present Simple and Present Continuous: Important Differences Present Simple and Present Continuous Worksheets Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs. Pin 2. Task 1: Identify and write the tense of the verbs (PS or PC) in the following sentences. Task 2: Read the sentences and circle the correct option. Task 3: Fill in the gaps with the correct tense of the verbs in the brackets. Pin 3. Choose the correct verb form. Pin 4. Read the sentences, choose the correct tense to fill in the blank. Pin Present Simple and Present Continuous Exercises Exercise 1: Fill in the blank. Direction: Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in either Present Simple or Present Continuous. Sentences: She usually _____ (go) to work by bus, but today she _____ (walk). I _____ (not like) coffee, but I _____ (drink) tea right now. We _____ (have) lunch at noon every day. Look! The dog _____ (chase) the cat in the garden. My brother _____ (play) video games every weekend. They _____ (study) for their exams at the moment. He _____ (watch) TV now, so he can't talk. My dad always _____ (cook) dinner on Sundays. The students _____ (wear) uniforms every day. Listen! Someone _____ (knock) on the door. Answer Key: goes / is walking don't like / am drinking have is chasing plays are studying is watching cooks wears is knocking Exercise 2: Correct the Mistake. Direction: Each sentence has a tense mistake. Find it and rewrite the sentence correctly using either the Present Simple or Present Continuous. Sentences: She is go to school every morning. I eats lunch at 1 p.m. every day. They playing soccer in the park right now. My mom cook dinner every night. Look! The birds sings in the trees. We are go to the supermarket now. He dont like broccoli. The baby is cry because he is hungry. Sarah read a book at the moment. Tom is usually walking to work. Answer Key: She goes to school every morning. I eat lunch at 1 p.m. every day. They are playing soccer in the park right now. My mom cooks dinner every night. Look! The birds are singing in the trees. We are going to the supermarket now. He doesn't like broccoli. The baby is crying because he is hungry. Sarah is reading a book at the moment. Tom usually walks to work. Exercise 3: Write Sentences. Direction: Use the prompts to write complete sentences in either Present Simple or Present Continuous, depending on the meaning. Example: (She / read / every night) She reads every night. Prompts: (They / play / soccer / now) (I / brush / my teeth / every morning) (She / cook / dinner / at the moment) (We / go / to the beach / on weekends) (He / do / his homework / right now) (The baby / sleep / every afternoon) (You / watch / TV / now) (My dad / drive / to work / every day) (The children / eat / lunch / at the moment) (I / walk / my dog / every evening) Answer Key: They are playing soccer now. I brush my teeth every morning. She is cooking dinner at the moment. We go to the beach on weekends. He is doing his homework right now. The baby sleeps every afternoon. You are watching TV now. My dad drives to work every day. The children are eating lunch at the moment. I walk my dog every evening. Exercise 4: Choose the Correct Tense. Circle or underline the correct verb tense in each sentence. Sentences: He (goes / is going) to school by bike every day. They (play / are playing) basketball in the gym right now. I (eat / am eating) dinner with my family at the moment. Sarah (reads / is reading) a new book every week. Listen! The birds (sing / are singing) beautifully. My brother (watch / watches) cartoons every Saturday. We (visit / are visiting) our grandparents this weekend. She (walks / is walking) to the store now. The sun (rises / is rising) in the east. You (study / are studying) English right now. Answer Key: goes are playing am eating reads are singing watches are visiting is walking rises are studying Both the present simple and the continuous tenses are some of the most fundamental aspects of grammar. We use and hear these tenses every day, so it's important to understand the differences between them. This worksheet provides a deeper understanding of the differences between Present Simple and Present Continuous. It contains 20 questions and an answer key. This worksheet is suitable for ESL students over 15 years old, in addition to elementary, pre-intermediate, and intermediate students. Grammar Bank Video Exercises (New!) Present simple vs present continuous PDF exercises with answers Online exercises Grammar rules PDF English grammar books PDF PDF book 1: English grammar exercises PDF PDF book 2: English grammar rules PDF Present simple and present continuous exercises See also: Present simple tense Present continuous tense PDF exercises to download for free: Present simple + continuous PDF 1 (multiple choice) Present simple + continuous PDF 2 (complete sentences) Present simple + continuous PDF 3 (jumbled words) Present simple + continuous PDF 4 (questions I) Present simple + continuous PDF 5 (questions II) Present simple + continuous PDF 6 (negative and question forms I) Present simple + continuous PDF 7 (negative and question forms II) Present simple + continuous PDF 8 (mixed forms) Online exercises with answers: Present simple vs continuous exercise 1 (two parts) Part 1. A multiple choice test. 2. Complete sentences. Present simple vs continuous exercise 2 (fill the gaps) Complete sentences with the verbs in brackets. Present simple vs continuous exercise 3 (make sentences) Put jumbled words in the correct order. Present simple vs continuous exercise 4 (all forms) Affirmative, negative and question forms. Present simple vs continuous exercise 5 (negative) Negative sentences in short dialogues. Present simple vs continuous exercise 6 (questions) Complete positive questions. Present simple vs continuous exercise 7 (wh- questions) Make wh- questions. PDF grammar rules: Present simple and continuous PDF rules Present simple vs present continuous tense Learn the difference between the present simple and continuous Present simple tense This tense is used for repeated activities. We often use expressions such as: every Sunday, very often, sometimes, always, never. I sometimes go to school by bike. You don't speak Greek very often. Do they ever get up early? He always travels by train. She doesn't on Sundays. Does she ever help you? 2. We use it for facts that are always true. Our planet moves round the sun. Lions eat meat. 3. With a future time expression (tomorrow, next week) it is used for planned future actions (timetables). The train leaves at 8.15. They return tonight. Present continuous tense The present continuous is used for activities that are happening at the moment of speaking (just now). I am learning English at the moment. You aren't listening! Why is he sitting here? 2. We use it for temporary activities which are happening about this time (today, this week), but not necessarily at the moment of speaking. I am in London this week. I am staying at the hotel. (But you can be somewhere else at the moment of speaking.) She can't go out. She is writing her essay today. (But she can be having lunch at the moment of speaking.) You can't borrow this book today. Mary is reading it. (But not right now.) 3. With a future time expression (soon, tomorrow, tonight, on Monday) it is used for definite arrangements in the near future. I am leaving soon. We are meeting on Monday. Note The present simple and present continuous can be used for planned future actions. The present continuous, however, is more personal than the present simple, because it expresses the speaker's plan. Our tip: English grammar books PDF All PDF exercises and grammar rules from this website. top

Simple present tense change into present continuous worksheet. **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 4.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 4 with answers.** **Present simple tense vs present continuous tense worksheet.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 8.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for grade 5.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 6.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 5.** **Simple present tense and present continuous tense worksheet pdf.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet with answers.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 3.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet with answers pdf.** **Simple present tense present continuous tense present perfect tense worksheet.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for grade 4.** **Simple present and present continuous tense worksheet for class 7.**