


Present Simple vs Present Continuous


USES, EXPRESSIONS, KEY WORDS AND EXAMPLES

**Present Simple vs. Present Continuous** 

**Present Simple Tense**

1 For facts or things that are always true or generally true.


- Whales **live** in the ocean.
- A dog **has** four legs.
- It **rains** a lot in winter.
- Water **boils** at 100° Celsius.



**Present Simple Tense**

2 For regular habits or repeated actions.


- I **brush** my teeth three times a day.
- I **read** in bed every night.
- She **goes** to the gym after work.
- He **walks** to school every day.



**Present Continuous Tense**

1 For an action happening right now at the moment of speaking.

- I **am teaching** an English lesson.
- You **are watching** a video.
- Steve **is washing** his hair.
- She **is taking** her dog for a walk.




**Present Continuous Tense**

2 To talk about something that is happening AROUND the time of speaking but not necessarily at this exact moment.

- I **am reading** a great book.

It doesn't necessarily mean that I am reading a book right at this moment. It refers to this moment of my life.




*Common time expressions used with the present simple tense are:*

- always, often, generally, sometimes, never ...
- every day, every week, every year ...
- once a day, twice a week, three times a month ...
- in the morning, in the afternoon, at night

*Common time expressions used with the present continuous tense are:*


- now, right now
- at the moment
- still



**I live** in England.

**Present Simple Tense**

I plan to live in England for a long time and I don't plan to change soon. It is more or less permanent.



**I am living** in London at the moment.

**Present Continuous Tense**

The situation is temporary. Next month I plan to live in a different city.

**It rains** a lot in winter.


**Present Simple Tense**

This is a fact. It is generally true.

**It is raining** right now.

**Present Continuous Tense**

This is an action happening now. The situation is temporary. Tomorrow it might be sunny.



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## ACTIVITIES

- 1) Watch the following video and take down notes of the most important parts of it. It will explain everything in detail about this verb tense. Go through this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5UEPSk9ipE>
- 2) Read the following text and highlight key words.
- 3) Work with the dictionary to find out the meanings of the unknown words.
- 4) Use different colors to underline/circle:
  - Verbs
  - Adjectives
  - Linkers/discursive words
  - All types of pronouns
- 5) Make a list of what you found in point 3)
- 6) Rewrite the text in Spanish by using your own words.

Hi, I'm Dan. This is a photo of my older brother, Ed, and me. In the photo, we're both wearing sports clothes. I'm wearing my favourite football T-shirt, and Ed's wearing his baseball cap and his favourite hoodie. We're smiling in the photo because Ed's telling a stupid joke! Ed and I were born in the USA. My dad's family is originally from Mexico and we both speak Spanish. I'm in England now because Mum's working at a school here. Ed's at university in New York and he's having a great time. Mum and I are making plans to visit him this summer, and we're really excited. I'm enjoying my new school in England but I don't like the school uniform! I'm glad I've got friends like Tommo, Skye and Alisha. I'm shy, but they're always around when I'm worried about something.