

01 Present Time

The Present Simple is used:

- for habitual or repeated actions and situations.
I go to the park once a week.
- for general truths and natural phenomena.
The earth goes round the sun.
Most rivers flow into the sea.
- for permanent situations in the present.
James lives in Zurich.
- for future actions related to timetables and programmes.
The train leaves at six o'clock.
- for headlines, sports commentaries, story-telling, reviews of books, directions and instructions.
Three men rob bank.
Martin takes the ball and scores.
In this chapter, Bob meets his old friend, Charlie.
You turn left at this junction and you'll find it.
- in exclamatory sentences with "Here...!"/"There...!"
Here comes the bride! There he goes again!

Time Expressions

often, usually, always, never, sometimes, seldom, rarely, hardly ever, every day/week, etc.

The Present Progressive is used:

- for actions or events happening at or around the time of speaking.
Look! That boy is climbing up a tree.
- for temporary states in the present.
David is doing his military service.
I'm studying French this term.
- for situations which are changing or developing around the present.
The problem of pollution is getting more and more serious.
- for planned future actions related to personal arrangements.
I'm travelling to London tomorrow.
- with adverbs of frequency (*constantly, always, etc.*), for emphasis or to express annoying habits.
Sam is very kind; he is always helping the poor.
Steve is always leaving his clothes on the floor!

Time Expressions

now, at present, at the moment, nowadays, this month, etc.

Stative Verbs

They express a state - not an action - and are not used in Progressive Tenses:

- verbs of the senses:
feel, hear, see, smell, taste, notice, etc.
- verbs of emotions and preferences:
like, dislike, love, hate, fear, mind, want, wish, need, prefer, admire, etc.
- verbs of perception, belief, knowledge, ownership:
think, believe, know, understand, expect, remember, forget, hope, have, own, belong (to), etc.
- other verbs which describe permanent states:
be, cost, weigh, seem, appear, consist (of), etc.

note

Some stative verbs can be used in the progressive forms when they express actions rather than states, but with a difference in meaning.

State

They have a wonderful house.
I see Mary coming towards us.
I think she is clever.
Do I smell smoke?
This chewing gum tastes like strawberry.
He is very selfish. (=that is his character.)

Action

I'm having a bath now.
I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow at 11:00.
I'm thinking of buying a new car.
Why are you smelling the milk? Do you think it's gone off?
She is tasting the soup to see if it needs any more salt.
Why is he being selfish? (=why is he behaving so selfishly?)

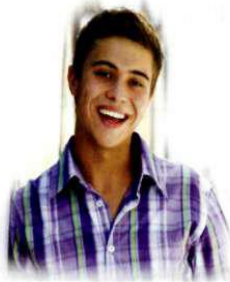
Listen, look and watch, though verbs of the senses, can also be used in the progressive tenses because they express voluntary actions.

James is watching the news.

Grammar Practice

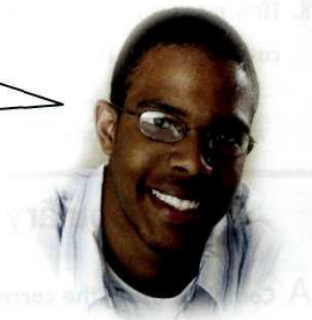
A Read what the following people have to say about learning English in Britain. Complete with the Present Progressive or the Present Simple of the verbs in brackets.

As part of my job, I (1) _____ (travel) abroad a lot, so I (2) _____ (need) to improve my English. For this reason, I (3) _____ (attend) a course in Business English at a language school in London. The course (4) _____ (last) three weeks.



I (5) _____ (come) from Italy but I (6) _____ (study) in England at the moment. I (7) _____ (stay) with a British family. In this way, my English (8) _____ (improve) faster because I (9) _____ just _____ (not use) it in the classroom but in my everyday life as well.

I (10) _____ (visit) England every two or three years, so I (11) _____ (speak) some English but not much. At present I (12) _____ (do) a course at a language school in London and I (13) _____ (learn) lots of new stuff! Apart from that, in the afternoons I (14) _____ (go) out with my classmates and we (15) _____ (try) to practise our English as much as possible.



B Circle the correct answers.

- In this story, a boy **finds** / **is finding** a time machine and **travels** / **is travelling** through time.
- Don't bother me now. I **write** / **am writing** an important letter.
- I **am thinking** / **think** about grandmother. We hardly ever **visit** / **are visiting** her. Let's visit her tomorrow.
- The minibus, which **is taking** / **takes** people to the other side of the island, **leaves** / **is leaving** at 11:00 am and **is returning** / **returns** at 6:00 pm.
- I **sleep** / **am sleeping** at my mother's house this week because I **am having** / **have** my house painted.
- Why **are you leaving** / **do you leave** so early tomorrow morning?
- I **think** / **am thinking** you should buy him a tie. He **is liking** / **likes** to dress formally.
- Flowers **bloom** / **are blooming** in spring.
- You **are turning** / **turn** left at the traffic lights and **go** / **are going** up Oxford Street.
- Here **comes** / **is coming** Tom. Let's tell him the news.

C Using the words given and other words, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (Use 2-5 words in total.)

- John never stops criticising my friends.
always John _____ my friends.
- We've arranged to meet at 8:00 pm tomorrow.
are We _____ at 8:00 pm tomorrow.
- What time is your plane scheduled to arrive at Heathrow?
land What time _____ at Heathrow?
- I have arranged to have dinner with Jerry tonight.
am I _____ with Jerry tonight.
- The older he gets, the more eccentric he becomes.
is As time goes by, he _____ eccentric.
- They don't like spicy food, so they avoid eating it.
never They _____ as they don't like it.
- Jack has found a job in a supermarket for the summer.
is Jack _____ in a supermarket this summer.
- How much is that green jacket, please?
cost How much _____, please?

Vocabulary Practice

A Complete using the correct form of the phrasal verbs given.

ask for:	request sth
ask out:	invite sb to go out with you
blow up:	(cause to) explode
break down:	(1) stop working (for a piece of machinery) (2) lose control of your feelings or emotions
break in:	enter a building illegally or by force (intransitive)
break into:	enter a building illegally or by force (transitive)
break up:	(1) divide into smaller parts (2) end a meeting, gathering, etc.

It was my first day at work so I (1) _____ my best friend to celebrate it with me. When we had finished having dinner, I (2) _____ the bill.

As I was looking out of the window, I saw three masked men trying to (3) _____ the bank across the street. Before I could react, there was an explosion. The robbers had (4) _____ a car that was parked near the bank to distract people's attention, so that they could (5) _____ without being noticed.

Just then, the robbers ran out of the bank and got into a white Fiat. But they were unlucky. Five hundred metres down the street their car (6) _____ and they were caught.

After the incident, the police (7) _____ the crowd of people that had gathered and life returned to normal again.

B Complete using the prepositional phrases given.

at the age of: a person's age at the time of an event

at the beginning (of): at the start of sth

**at breakfast/
lunch/dinner:** the time of the meal during which sth happens

at the end (of): at the last part of sth

at first: initially

at first sight: when first seen

at ... km per hour: the speed at which sth moves

1. Tax forms must be handed in _____ of March. After the 10th, you will have to pay a fine.
2. _____, the city seems to be a mass of concrete buildings but, in fact, it has some very old and interesting areas.
3. _____ 35, Mark decided to study engineering.
4. Tom had an accident because he was speeding. He was driving _____ 140 _____.
5. _____ of the game, we couldn't decide who the winner was.
6. _____, I thought she was joking, but then I realised that she was serious.
7. The boss wants to talk to us _____ today, so make sure you're back at the office by 12:30 pm.

C Complete using the correct form of the verbs given.

rent (v): regularly pay money to the owner of sth in order to have and use it for a long period of time

hire (v): (1) pay money to the owner of sth in order to use it for a period of time
(2) employ sb to do a particular job for you

let (v): allow the use of your property in exchange for money

leave (v): forget or deliberately not take sb or sth with you (used when the place is mentioned)

forget (v): fail to remember or bring sth with you

borrow (v): take sth from sb with their permission, intending to return it in the future

lend (v): allow sb to use sth that you own for a period of time

1. My parents never _____ their country house because they go there every weekend.
2. When he moved to the city, he _____ a flat.
3. The school _____ a teacher to help the slow learners.
4. We couldn't get into the art exhibition since we had _____ the invitations at home.
5. I couldn't pay for the shoes I wanted to buy. I had _____ to take my credit card.
6. If you _____ something from a friend, you should take good care of it.
7. Steve never _____ his books to anybody.

