

Compare the uses of the present simple and present continuous:

**We use the present simple:**

for habitual and repeated events/actions:  
*It rains a lot here.*

with adverbs of frequency (e.g. *always*, *never*), to say how often something happens: *I always get up at 6 a.m.*

for situations/states that are true at the present time or usually true (permanent):  
*I live in Berlin. My brother goes to college in York.*

for facts that are always true: *The sun rises in the east.*

**We use the present continuous:**

for actions in progress at the moment of speaking: *Oh no! It's raining!*

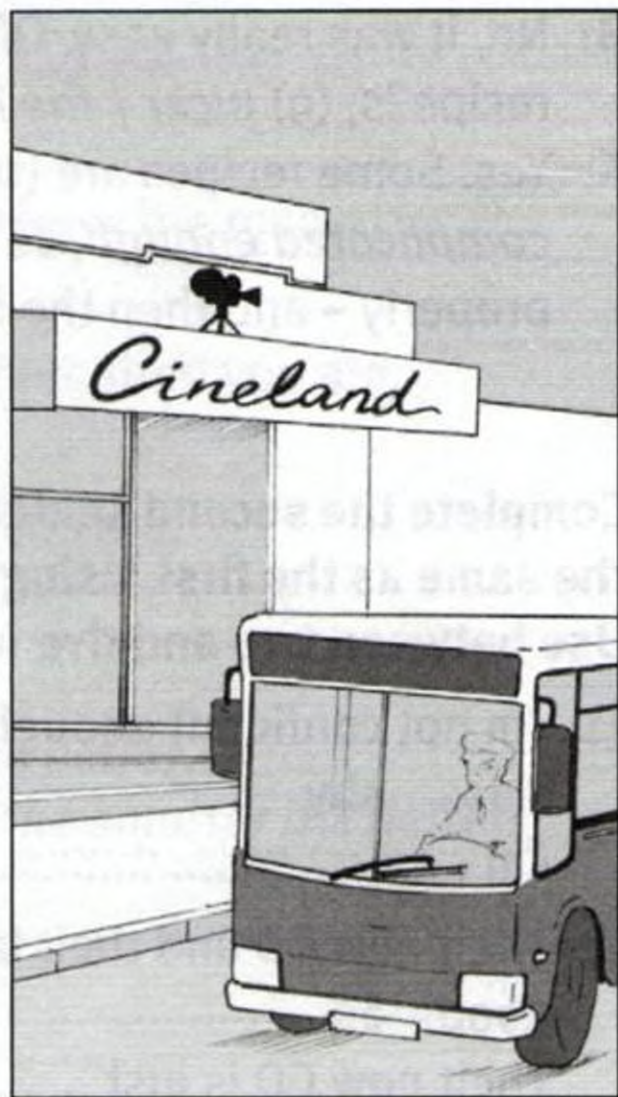
with *always*, to show that something happens often and is surprising or annoying: *I'm always losing my keys!*

for situations/states that are true for a limited period (temporary): *I'm living in Hamburg at the moment. He's doing a work placement this month.*

for situations/states that are changing: *Our summers are getting hotter.*

**26a** Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 The bus ..... *doesn't stop* ..... outside the cinema. (not stop)
- 1 Fiona ..... today. She's at home. (not work)
- 2 The boys are outside. They ..... in the garden. (sit)
- 3 I ..... Spanish very well, but I understood what he said. (not speak)
- 4 My sister ..... a lot. She's got lots of books. (read)
- 5 Is Emma on the phone to Kate again?  
She ..... to her! (always / talk)
- 6 I ..... work at seven. (always / start)
- 7 Who ..... that awful noise?  
I can't stand it! (make)
- 8 ..... very cold here in the winter? (it / get)



## 26b Circle the correct answer.

A: What's the matter? (o) *Do you get / (Are you getting) tired?*

B: Yes, a bit. And I'm cold.

A: Have you got a hat? I read somewhere that our body (1) *loses / 's losing* a lot of heat from the head. And you probably need something to eat. We (2) *use / 're using* a lot of energy during exercise. Would you like some chocolate?

B: No, thanks. I (3) *never eat / 'm never eating* chocolate. But I'll put my hat on!

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A: Hi, Ben!

B: Hi, Adam! I haven't seen you for ages! How are you?

A: I'm fine. I (4) *live / 'm living* in Cardiff for a few months. I (5) *help / 'm helping* my uncle with his new house.

B: Really? My cousin (6) *lives / 's living* near Cardiff. She (7) *works / 's working* in a hospital there.

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A: There are a lot of new shops near you, aren't there?

B: Yes, we (8) *become / 're becoming* quite trendy! New people (9) *move / are moving* in and a lot of new shops (10) *open / are opening*. I like it, but I hate the traffic.


# State verbs

- Verbs that describe states are not usually used in the continuous form. Common state verbs include:

<b>Mental/Thinking verbs</b>	agree, believe, know, remember, think, understand
<b>Attitude verbs</b>	hate, like, love, need, prefer, want, wish
<b>Sense/Perception verbs</b>	hear, see, smell, taste
<b>Appearance, qualities</b>	appear, look (= seem), seem, sound
<b>Being, possession</b>	be, belong, contain, have, own
<b>Other verbs</b>	cost, fit, mean, owe

*I'm sorry, I **don't understand**. Your job **sounds** really interesting.*

***Does** this car **belong** to you? I **owe** Jessica £150.*

- Some state verbs can be used in the continuous form when they describe actions. They include: *be, have, see, smell, taste* and *think*. Compare: *I **think** (= believe) you're right. I'm **thinking** about (= considering) it. I **see** (= understand) what you mean. I'm **seeing** (= meeting) Tom tomorrow.*
- With *feel* and *look*, we can use either the simple or the continuous form with no change in meaning: *I **feel**/**'m feeling** ill. You **look**/**'re looking** tired.*
-  We often use *can* with sense/perception verbs: *I **can't hear** you.*
- See* and *hear* are state verbs, but *look* and *listen* describe actions. Compare: ***Do you see** that girl over there? I'm **looking** at your photos. I **can hear** voices next door. Please be quiet. I'm **listening** to some music.*

**27a** Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in the box.

cost cry not agree not enjoy prefer understand wait

- 0 ..... *Do* ..... you ..... *understand* ..... how this works?
- 1 I'm sorry, but I ..... with you.
- 2 Excuse me, how much ..... these DVD players ..... ?
- 3 What's the matter, Becky? Why ..... you ..... ?
- 4 I ..... soul music to rap.
- 5 Hurry up! Nikki and Anna ..... for us!
- 6 Actually, I'm unhappy because I ..... my course.

**27b** Circle the correct answer.

- 0 We *have* / *'re having* dinner at the moment.
- 1 I'm not eating all the yoghurt! I *taste* / *'m tasting* it to see if it's still OK.
- 2 *Do you see* / *Are you seeing* that blue car over there? It's Ben's.
- 3 I'm all right. I *think* / *'m thinking* about what I have to do tomorrow.
- 4 This soup *tastes* / *'s tasting* awful!
- 5 I love this shampoo. It *smells* / *'s smelling* of coconuts.
- 6 Sophie *thinks* / *'s thinking* I watch too much television.
- 7 My college *has* / *is having* some very good sports facilities.
- 8 I took this photo last week. This is me and this is Kim. She *smells* / *'s smelling* the flowers.

**27C Complete the conversations. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.**

A: (0) ..... *Do you want* ..... (you / want) to come to the cinema with us tomorrow evening?

B: Thanks, but I can't. I (1) ..... (see) Nicole and Kelly then.

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A: Is your driving test today? (2) ..... (you / feel) nervous?

B: Yes, a bit. I (3) ..... (think) it's going to be quite difficult.

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A: Is Mark here?

B: Yes. He (4) ..... (listen) to some music in his room.

A: Oh yes, I can hear it. It (5) ..... (sound) good.

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A: Are you OK? You (6) ..... (look) a bit worried.

B: I'm OK. I (7) ..... (think) about how to help my brother. He's got a lot of problems at college.

A: Maybe he (8) ..... (need) professional help. There are some good advisors there.