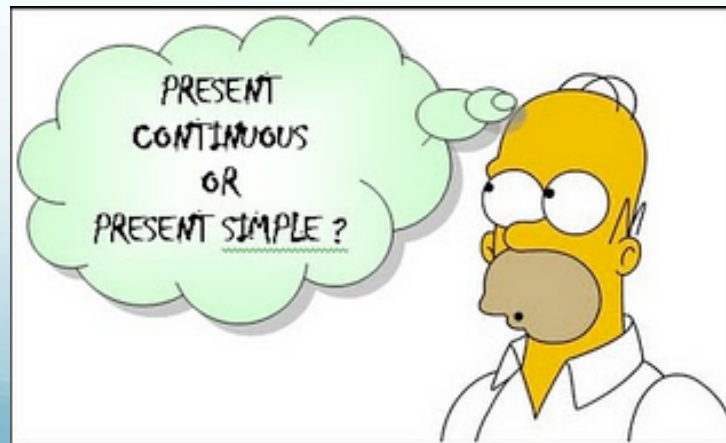


Present simple vs present continuous

Raffaella Antinucci



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- 1-1 The present simple: forms and uses
- 1-2 Frequency adverbs
- 1-3 The present progressive: forms and uses
- 1-4 Progressive vs stative (non-action) verbs
- 1-5 Present verbs: short answers to yes/no

1.1 THE PRESENT SIMPLE

We shop every Monday



THE PRESENT SIMPLE – FORMS

We form **affirmative statements** with a subject and a main verb or a main verb + **-s** or **-es**

SINGULAR

PLURAL

1st PERSON

I walk

we walk

2nd PERSON

you walk

you walk

3rd PERSON

she walk**s**

they walk

he walk**s**

it walk**s**

Present simple: verb endings (3rd person singular)

- We add **-s** to most verbs: *walks, gets, ...*
 - We add **-es** to verbs that end in **-sh, -ch, -ss** or **-o**: *finishes, goes, catches, ...*
 - If a verb ends in a **consonant +y**, we change the y to **i** and add **-es**: *tries, studies, ...*
- N.B. If a verb ends in a **vowel +y**, we add **-s**:
pays, plays, ...

Pronunciation of final -S



Pronunciation of final -s

The pronunciation of words ending in S depends on the final consonant (sound). There are three ways to pronounce the S:

/iz/

SIBILANT

C races
S buses
X boxes
Z prizes
SS kisses
CH watches
SH dishes
GE changes

Sibilant Sound
a hissing or
buzzing sound

/s/

VOICELESS

P sleeps
K books
T hats
F cliff
PH graphs
TH myths

Voiced Sound
uses the vocal cords
and it produces a
vibration or humming
sound in the throat

/z/

VOICED

B crabs
D words
G bags
L deals
M dreams
N fans
NG sings
R wears
V gloves
Y plays

THE PRESENT SIMPLE – FORMS

We use the auxiliary verbs **do/does** to form negative statements, questions and short answers.

NEGATIVE:

He *doesn't watch* TV on weekends.

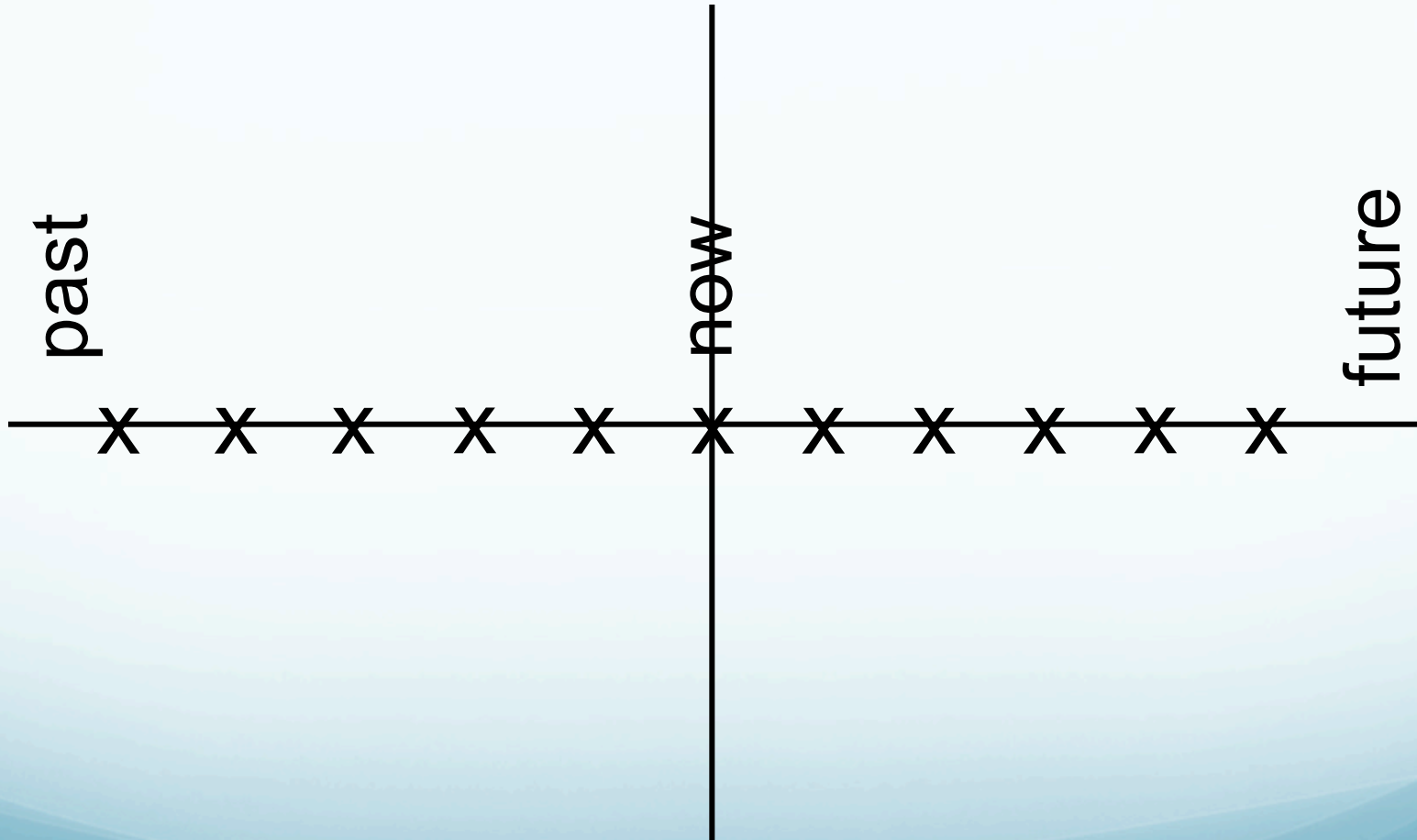
QUESTION:

Does that dog *bark* loudly?

SHORT ANSWER:

Yes, it *does*. / No, it *doesn't*.

THE PRESENT SIMPLE – USES



Present simple – Main uses

- **To describe repeated actions or habits**
I get up at seven every morning
- **With time expressions such as every day/ week/ year, in the morning/ afternoon/ evening and at night**
I go to the gym once a week
- **With adverbs of frequency such as always, usually, ...**
She often studies in the library

Present simple – Main uses

- **To talk about things that are always or generally true**
The sun sets in the west . Water boils at 100°
- **To describe a permanent situation or a condition with no definite start or finish but which is true now**
We live in London
- **To express future meaning with actions and events that are part of a fixed timetable**
The train leaves at 8:30

TO SUM UP: USES OF THE SIMPLE PRESENT

I *usually study* English
on Wednesday.

I *live* in Milan and *work* for SEI.

} daily habits,
permanent
situations

Dogs *bark*. Lions *roar*. →

general truths and
facts

The train *leaves* at 5 pm. →

schedules/timetables

SIMPLE PRESENT →

**events or situations (always..)
general statements/universal
truths; timetables**

1.2 FREQUENCY ADVERBS AND PHRASES

always

Ayako frequently talks on the phone.



THE PRESENT SIMPLE (frequency adverbs and phrases)

Jill *eats* lunch *every day*.
I *usually study* English
on Wednesday.



Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

100%



0%

positive

always
almost always
usually
often
frequently
generally
sometimes
occasionally

negative

seldom
rarely
hardly ever
almost never
not ever, never

1-3 FREQUENCY ADVERBS

(a) **Hannah** *always* **eats** lunch at school.

SUBJECT + **FREQ ADV** + **SIMPLE PRESENT
VERB** (except *be*)

(b) **Hannah** *is* **always** happy.

SUBJECT + **BE** + **FREQ ADV**

a) Alex *usually* *doesn't eat* meat.

FREQ ADV + **NEGATIVE VERB**
(except *always* & *ever*)

b) Alex *doesn't always eat* meat.

Negative auxiliary verb
Negative *be* verb + *always*

CORRECT: Marcy *never drinks* milk.

Marcy *doesn't always drink* milk.

INCORRECT: *Marcy doesn't never drink milk.*



Negative adverb + negative verb

Negative adverbs

seldom

rarely

hardly ever

almost never

not ever, never

Negative adverb + negative verb

3-4 Let's Practice

Lucy reads at the library. **often**



Lucy **often** reads at the library.



3-4 Let's Practice

He is tired.

usually



3-4 Let's Practice

He is **usually** tired.



3-4 Let's Practice

Jeff is sad.

never



3-4 Let's Practice

Jeff is **never** sad.



It rains in the desert. **rarely**



It **rarely** rains in the desert.



1.3 THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE – FORMS

Simple present of **TO BE + -ING**

ex. **I'm eating** a pizza

PRESENT

PROGRESSIVE

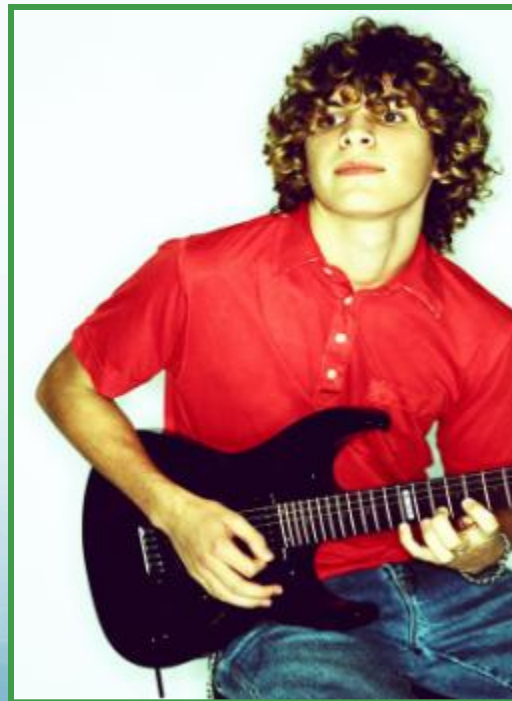
FORM:



am, is, are + -ing

THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

- a) Magda ***is feeding*** her horse ***right now***.
b) I can't talk ***now***. I ***am playing*** the guitar.
c) They ***are eating*** dinner ***right now***.



Present progressive: verb endings

For most verbs, we add **-ing**: *starting, playing, studying, ...*

- If the verb ends in a consonant + e, we drop -e and add -ing: *live – living, decide – deciding, ...*

- If the verb has one syllable and ends in a single vowel + a consonant, we **double the consonant** and add -ing: *stop – stopping, plan – planning, ...*

Exceptions: if the verb ends in **w** or **x**, we don't double the final consonant: *fixing, showing, ...*

- If the verb has 2 syllables, ends in a vowel + a consonant **and the stress on the last syllable**, it doubles the final consonant: *prefer – preferring, begin – beginning*

- If the verb ends in **-ie**, it changes -ie to **-y** and adds **-ing**: *tie – tying, die – dying*

Present Progressive – Uses

- To talk about something which is in progress **at the moment** of speaking

It is raining now

- To talk about something which is in progress **around the present**, but not exactly at the time of speaking

Peter is looking for a job these days

- To talk about situations which are **developing or temporary**

Computers are becoming more and more important in our lives

Present Progressive – Uses

- With time expressions such as *now, at the moment, at present, these days, nowadays and today*

I'm writing an e-mail right now

- With adverbs such as *always* or *constantly* to **express complaints and annoyance**

He is always calling me late at night

To talk about **future arrangements** or plans

I'm meeting Peter tomorrow

THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Magda ***is feeding*** her horse ***right now***.

I can't talk ***now***. I ***am playing*** the guitar.

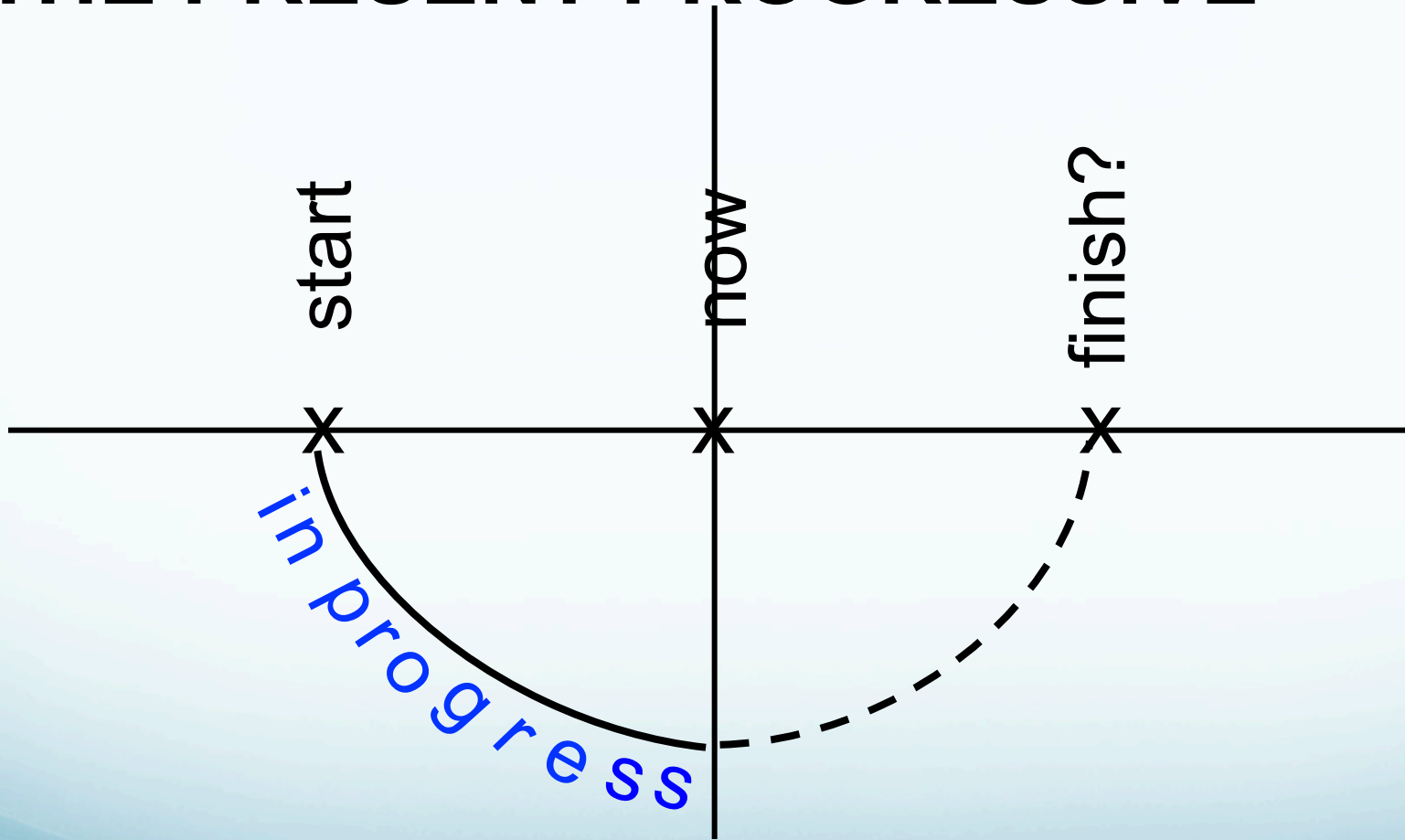
They ***are eating*** dinner ***right now***.

**PRESENT
PROGRESSIVE**



**an activity in progress
(is happening right now/in
this period); it's temporary**

THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE



TO SUM UP: USES OF THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

1) An ongoing action

ex. I can't talk now, *I'm cooking*.

2) Temporary present situations/happening in this period/progress or change

ex. What *are you doing* (with yourself)? *I'm doing* yoga./ *It's getting* difficult to find a job.

3) Definite future plan (with a time phrase)

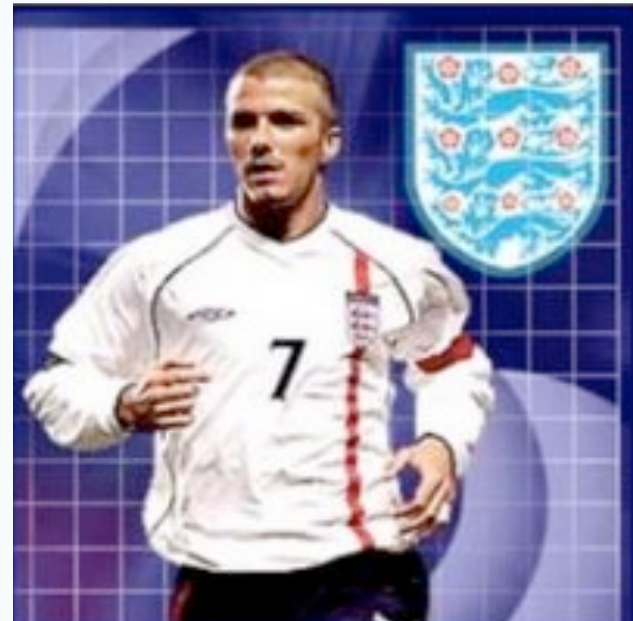
ex. Tomorrow morning *I'm playing* tennis.

Who is this?

What does he do?

What is he doing?

NB. The **present progressive** is also used to describe **photographs/pictures**



David Beckham

Facts

His name is David Beckham.
He is English.
He plays football.
He earns a lot of money.
He doesn't live in England.
He has got a famous wife.

Actions (in the photo)

He's running.
He's playing football.
He's wearing a white shirt.
He's wearing dark shorts.

1-2 FORMS OF THE SIMPLE PRESENT AND THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

SIMPLE PRESENT

I **cook** every Monday.

= **habitual action**

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I **'m cooking** every Monday.

= **temporary action**

LET'S COMPARE

It swims.

It is swimming.



1-2 FORMS OF THE SIMPLE PRESENT AND
THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

FORMS: STATEMENT (AFFIRMATIVE)

SIMPLE PRESENT

They *run*.



PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

They *are running*.



FORMS: QUESTION (INTERROGATIVE)

SIMPLE PRESENT

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

They *do not run*.

They *are not running*.

CONTRACTIONS

I + *am* = *I'm* running.

you + *are* = *You're* running.

she + *is* = *She's* running.

Pronoun + be

FORMS: NEGATIVE

SIMPLE PRESENT

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Do you *run*?

Are you *running*?

SP: NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS

does + *not* = *doesn't*

do + *not* = *don't*

She doesn't run.



They don't run.

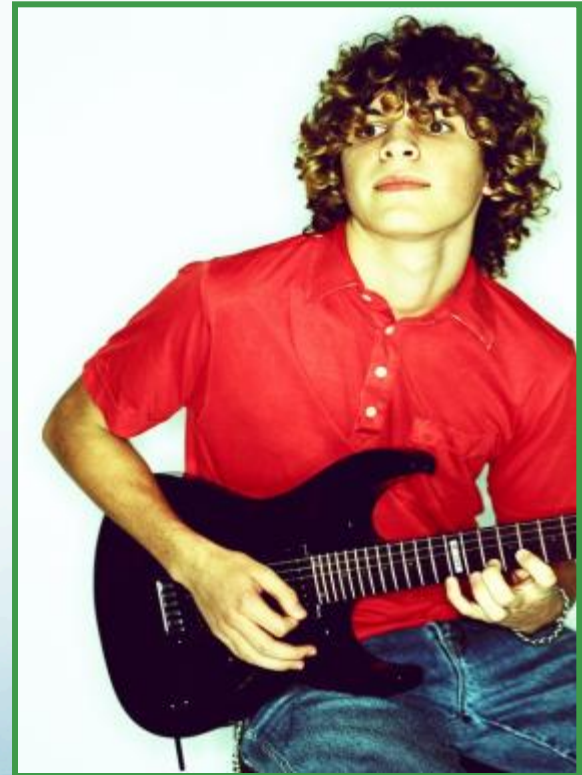


1-2 FORMS OF THE SIMPLE PRESENT AND
THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

PP: NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS

is + *not* = *isn't*

He isn't running.



PP: NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS

are + *not* = *aren't*

They aren't running.



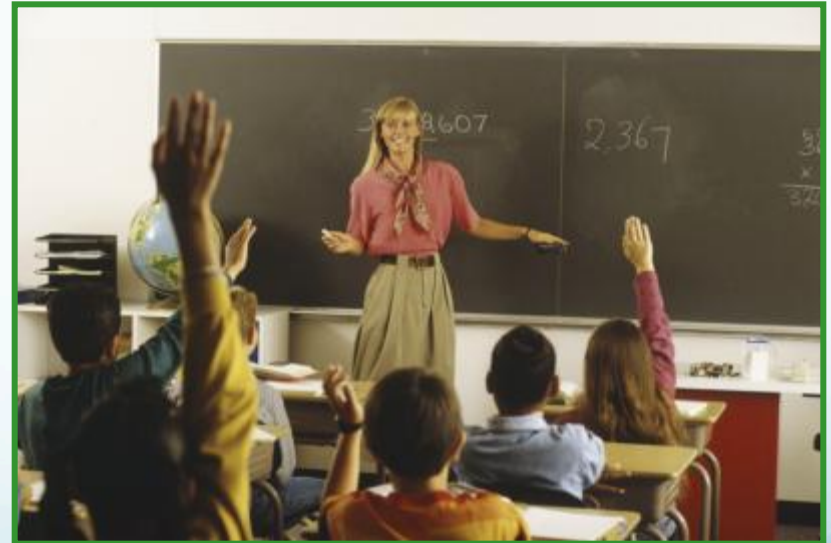
It's Monday, and my mom is teaching math.

?

daily / usual habit

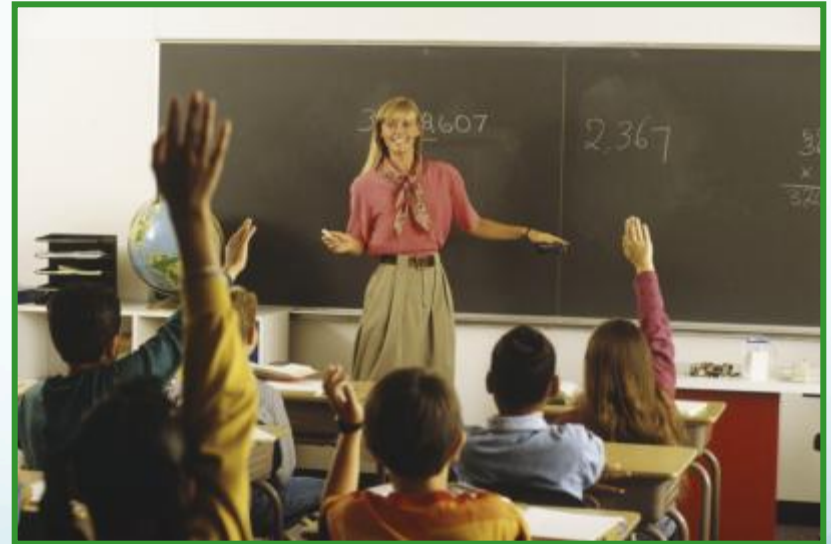
or

happening right now



It's Monday, and my mom is teaching math.

happening right now



She doesn't usually teach on Monday.



daily / usual habit

or

happening right now

She doesn't usually teach on Monday.

daily / usual habit

She usually teaches on Tuesday and Thursday.



daily / usual habit

or

happening right now

M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

She usually teaches on Tuesday and Thursday.

daily / usual habit

M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

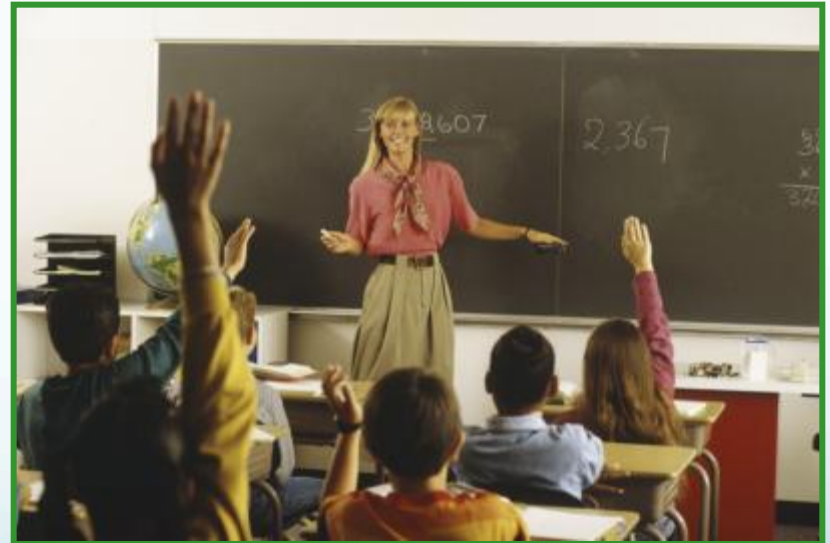
Today is unusual. She is teaching a class for new students.

?

daily / usual habit

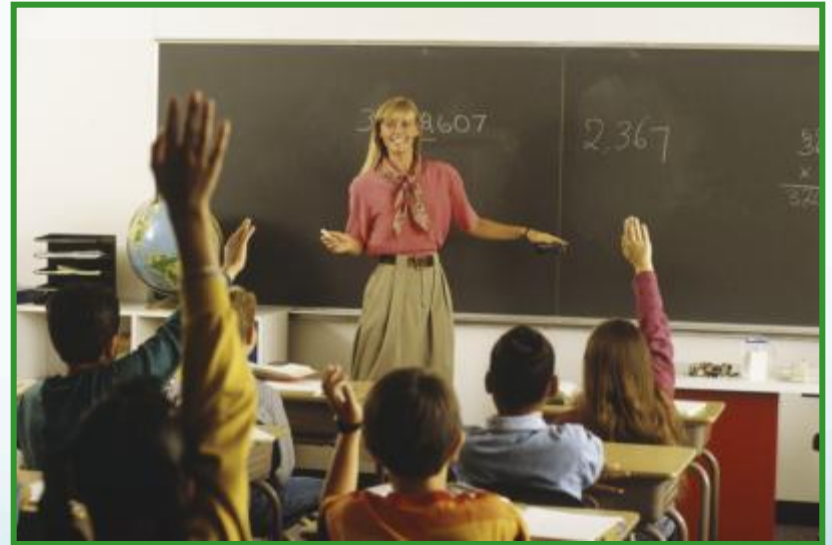
or

happening right now



Today is unusual. She is teaching a class for new students.

happening right now



1-1 / 1-2 LET'S PRACTICE



1. Are you _____?

listen

2. The birds _____ right now.

sing

3. They _____ every morning.

sing

1-1 / 1-2 LET'S PRACTICE



1. Are you listening ?

listen

2. The birds _____ right now.

sing

3. They _____ every morning.

sing

1-1 / 1-2 LET'S PRACTICE



1. Are you listening ?

listen

2. The birds are singing right now.

sing

3. They _____ every morning.

sing

1-1 / 1-2 LET'S PRACTICE



1. Are you listening ?

listen

2. The birds are singing right now.

sing

3. They sing every morning.

sing

1. Are you _____ TV?

watch

2. No, I am _____.

check email

3. I always _____
before I go to sleep.

check email

1. Are you watching TV?

watch

2. No, I am _____.

check email

3. I always _____
before I go to sleep.

check email

1. Are you watching TV?

watch

2. No, I am checking email.

check email

3. I always _____
before I go to sleep.

check email

1. Are you watching TV?

watch

2. No, I am checking email.

check email

3. I always check email
before I go to sleep.

check email

1.4 PROGRESSIVE VS STATIVE VERBS

John **has** a new car.
I **like** John's new car.



STATIVE VERBS

They describe a state or a condition:

He seems very tired.

There are different types:

- Verbs of the senses: feel, see, sound, hear, smell, taste
- Verbs of mental states: believe, realise, remember, know, think (have an opinion), doubt, understand
- Verbs of possession: belong, have (got), own, possess
- Verbs of feeling or emotion: like, hate, adore, love, wish, ...
- Verbs of measurement: weigh, contain, cost, measure
- Other verbs that express states: be, exist, seem, mean, owe, require

Stative verbs cannot be in the continuous form

STATIVE VERBS

(a) I **know** your sister.

(b) I'm thirsty.

I **want** something to drink.

(c) I **prefer** iced tea.

~~I am knowing~~
~~I am wanting~~
~~I am~~
~~preferring~~

non-action verbs → existing situation

action in progress? ≠ non-action verbs

ACTION VERBS

**An action verb describes an action,
something that happens**

I'm reading.

Action verbs can be in the continuous form

I read a book every week.

This week, I'm reading Moby Dick.

Stative *and* action verbs

Some verbs **change their meaning** depending if we use them in the progressive or non-progressive form

Think

He thinks it is a good idea

He is thinking about eating a biscuit

Have

She has (got) a mobile phone

She's having a great time

She's having breakfast

Verbs of seeing and hearing

Action verbs: watch, look at, listen to

Non-action verbs: see, hear

- (a) I **think** that learning English is important.
- (b) I **am thinking** about studying right now.

when **think** = believe (non-progressive)

when **think** = thoughts in a person's mind
(can be progressive)

(a) Jesse **has** a motorbike.

(b) My aunt **is having** an operation.

when **have** = own (not used in progressive)

when **have** ≠ own (can be progressive)

What's the Difference?



SEE

when an image comes to our eyes; without intent

She opened the door and saw me standing there.



LOOK

to see something with intent and attention; often used with "at"

Ben looked at the menu before ordering his meal.



WATCH

to look intensely at something (often something that is moving)

We watched the plane take off.



HEAR vs. LISTEN



Use HEAR: for sounds that come to your ears without any intentional effort by you

I heard a strange sound outside my window last night.

She heard a knock at the door.

Use LISTEN + TO: to describe paying attention to someone or something

He listened carefully to the instructions.

I listened to the birds singing outside my window.

NOTE -- for concerts, talks, lectures, etc: in general, use HEAR for public performances and LISTEN for non-public performances.

She went to hear the President's speech last night.

I listened to the speech on the radio at home.

We heard Aretha Franklin sing at graduation.

1.5 SHORT ANSWERS

Is Tommy muddy?



QUESTIONS WITH *DO* / *DOES*

QUESTION: *Do* you *like* yogurt?

SHORT ANSWER: Yes, I *do*.
No, I *don't*.

LONG ANSWER: Yes, I like yogurt.
No, I don't like yogurt.

1-5 PRESENT VERBS: SHORT ANSWERS TO
YES/NO QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS WITH *DO* / *DOES*

QUESTION: *Does* Cheryl *like* yogurt?

SHORT ANSWER: Yes, she *does*.
No, she *doesn't*.

LONG ANSWER: Yes, she likes yogurt.
No, she doesn't like yogurt.

QUESTIONS WITH *BE*

QUESTION: *Are* you *teaching* ?

SHORT ANSWER: Yes, I *am*.
No, I *'m not*.

LONG ANSWER: Yes, I am teaching.
No, I *'m not* teaching.

1-5 QUESTIONS WITH DO/DOES

Oscar, send

Does _____ many text messages?

Yes, _____.



1-5 QUESTIONS WITH DO/DOES

Oscar, send

Does Oscar send many text messages?

Yes, he does.



1-5 QUESTIONS WITH DO/DOES

he, send

_____ a text message right now?

No, _____.



1-5 QUESTIONS WITH DO/DOES

he, send

Is he sending a text message right now?

No, he isn't



you, like

_____ scary movies?

Yes, _____.

your sister, like

_____ scary movies, too?

No, _____.

you, like

Do you like scary movies?

Yes, I do.

your sister, like

Does your sister like scary movies, too?

No, she doesn't.

1-5 LET'S PRACTICE

She's Italian, she _____ from
Pisa.

comes

is coming

This term I _____ Latin.

study

am studying

1-5 LET'S PRACTICE

She's Italian, she comes from
Pisa.

comes

is coming

This term I 'm studying Latin.

study

am studying

1-5 LET'S PRACTICE

He's working for his father.

- a) The person's job is probably temporary
- b) The person's job is permanent

I don't like tea with sugar.

- a) The speaker is talking about now
- b) The speaker is talking in general terms

1-5 LET'S PRACTICE

He's working for his father.

a) The person's job is probably temporary

I don't like tea with sugar.

b) The speaker is talking in general terms

7a Look at these sentences and choose the correct answer.

- 1 Dr Partridge *regularly gives / is regularly giving* talks about personality.
- 2 The professor *interviews / is interviewing* a candidate at the moment and can't come to the phone.
- 3 The number of companies using personality tests *grows / is growing*.
- 4 I do lots of different research but today *I carry out / I'm carrying out* research into the personalities of twins.
- 5 He *drives / is driving* to work every day.
- 6 People *become / are becoming* very interested in how personalities develop over time.
- 7 A psychologist *studies / is studying* the way people's minds work.
- 8 The doctor's practice *is / is being* in Harley Street.

8a Use the following prompts to write questions in the present simple or continuous.

1 make friends / easily?

2 what / usually / do / weekend?

3 what / read / at the moment?

4 enjoy / art and music?

5 prefer / extroverts or introverts?

6 work / on any new projects now?

7 do / anything interesting / at the moment?

8 lose temper / easily?

That's all for now...