

PRESENT SIMPLE

We use the **Present Simple**:

- to talk about things that happen repeatedly (routines, habits),

*I often **finish** school at 4.30.*

*Adam **visits** his grandparents every Tuesday.*

- to talk about things that are always true (general truths),

*Air pressure **decreases** with height.*

*Water **boils** at 100°C.*

- with verbs that express emotions (*hate, like, love*), activities of the mind (*believe, know, need, remember, seem, think, understand, want*) or senses (*feel, hear, see*). These are called stative or state verbs (see below).

*He **doesn't want** to go there.*

*I **need** your help with packing.*

TIME EXPRESSIONS (TIME ADVERBIALS) USED WITH THE PRESENT SIMPLE:

always, regularly, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, seldom, hardly ever, never, every day/week/month, once/twice/three times a week/month.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We use the **Present Continuous**:

- to talk about things that are happening now (at the time of speaking) or around the time when we speak,

*She's **taking** a shower **now**. (at the moment of speaking)*

*They're **studying** Ancient Greece **this semester**. (around the moment of speaking, not necessarily right now)*

- to express current changes.

*More and more young women **are getting** married at later ages nowadays.*

*The number of people studying Chinese **is growing** rapidly.*

TIME EXPRESSIONS (TIME ADVERBIALS) USED WITH THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS:

at the moment, (right) now, today, this morning/afternoon, this year, these days, at present.

STATIVE VERBS

- describe states and are not normally used in the Present Continuous (they don't take *-ing* form), even if they refer to things or states happening at the moment of speaking.

*Do you **understand** what she means?*

*I **don't believe** you.*

Some state verbs can be used both in the Present Simple and the Present Continuous tense depending on what they refer to:

*I **think** she's a very pretty girl. (think here means believe and refers to a state)*

*I'm **thinking** about my new job. (think here means consider and refers to an activity)*

DYNAMIC VERBS

- describe activities and can be used in the Present Simple and the Present Continuous tense.

*I often **watch** TV. (a habit)*

*I'm **watching** a western now. (at the moment of speaking)*

HAVE

The verb **have** can be used in the Present Simple and the Present Continuous tense.

- When **have** means *possess*, it refers to a state and can only be used in the Present Simple.

*I **have got** a new car. (have = possess)*

*She **has** two sisters.*

- When **have** refers to an activity (e.g. *have a bath, have a party, have a good time*), it can be used in the Present Simple and the Present Continuous.

*On Saturdays we usually **have** lunch at home. (have = eat, a routine)*

*I can't talk now. We **are just having** lunch. (have = eat, at the moment of speaking)*