

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)

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