

Present Tense

The Present Tense is used to talk about the present. Let us explore some of the main aspects related to this tense.

Present Simple

Form

	Positive	Example
1	S₁ + V (inf.) + comp. S ₁ : I, They, We, You, plural name	We live in Iraq.
2	S₂ + V (s) + comp. S ₂ : he, she, it, singular name	She lives in Iraq.

	Negative	Example
1	S₁ + don't + V(inf.) + comp.	We don't live in Iraq.
2	S₂ + doesn't + V(inf.) + comp.	She doesn't live in Iraq.

V(inf.) vs V(s)

V(inf.) refers to **Infinite Verb** which is the basic form of a verb.

V(s) refers to a verb with an "s" at the end.

Questions

	WH questions	Example
1	WH word + do + S₁ + V.(inf.) + comp?	Where do we live?
2	WH word + does + S₂ + V.(inf.) + comp?	Where does she live?

	Yes/no questions	Example
1	Do + S₁ + V.(inf.) + comp?	Do we live in Iraq?
2	Does + S₂ + V.(inf.) + comp?	Does she live in Iraq?

Note: The auxiliary verbs (aux. V) in the Present Simple tense are: do & does.

Use

The Present Simple is used to express:

- 1. an action that happens again and again (a habit).**
e.g. Ali and Mona **go** to work by car.
- 2. a fact that is always true.**
e.g. Some birds **fly** south in winter.
- 3. a fact that is true for a long time.**
e.g. She **works** in a bank.

Spelling of verb + -s

- Most verbs add (s) to the base form of the verb.
wants eats helps drives
- Add (es) to verbs that end in **-ss, -sh, -ch, -x and -o**.
kisses washes watches fixes goes
- Verbs that end in a **constant + -y** change the **-y** to **-ies**.
carry – carries fly – flies worry – worries try – tries
But verbs that end in a **vowel + -y** only add **-s**.
buys says plays enjoys

Note: Vowels letters are: **a, e, i, o & u**.

Present Continuous

Form

Positive	S + aux. V + V. (ing) + comp.
Negative	S + aux. V+ not + V(ing) + comp.

Example

I	am am not	watching TV.
He / She / It / singular name	is is not	
We / You / They / plural name	are are not	

Note: The auxiliary verbs in the Present Continuous tense are: am, is & are.

Questions

WH questions	WH word + aux. V + S + V(ing) + comp?
Yes/no questions	aux. V + S + V(ing) + comp?

Example / WH questions			
What	am	I	doing?
	is	he / she / it / singular name	
	are	we / you / they / plural name	

Example / Yes/no questions		
Am	I	going by train?
Is	he / she / it / singular name	
Are	we / you / they / plural name	

Use

The Present Continuous is used to express:

1. **an activity that is happening now.**
e.g. I **'m writing** an email.
2. **an activity or situation that is true now, but is not necessarily happening at the moment of speaking.**
e.g. Don't take that book, Jane **'s reading** it.
3. **a temporary activity.**
e.g. I **'m living** with friends until I find a place of my own.
4. a planned future arrangement.
e.g. We **are meeting** at 1.00 pm outside the restaurant.

Spelling of verb + -ing

1. Most verbs add (ing) to the base form of the verb.
going wearing visiting eating
2. Verbs that end in one (e) lose the (e).
smoke – smoking come – coming hope – hoping

State Verbs

There are certain group of verbs that can't be used in the Present Continuous. Which means that we can't add (ing) to them. Below are some of these verbs.

believe understand know forget realize
care hope admit hear taste

Present Simple & Present Continuous passive

Passive sentences move the focus from the subject to the object of active sentences.

Form

Present Simple passive	S + aux. V + p.p. + comp.
Present Continuous passive	S + aux. V + being + p.p. + comp.

Example		
It	is is being	mended
They	are are being	

Notes:

1. Auxiliary verbs of the present simple & continuous passive: is, are & am.
2. p.p. refers to the past participle form of a verb.
3. We can get the p.p. of a verb by adding (ed) to the base form of the verb.

However, there are some irregular verbs.

become – become	begin – begun	draw – drawn	drink – drunk	forget – forgotten
find – found	keep – kept	win – won	speak – spoken	say – said

Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.

My car **is serviced** every six months.

Computers **are used** in all areas of life and work.

The house **is being redecorated** at the moment.