

Present Tenses & Stative Verbs

GRAMMAR NOTES

1 Simple Present

Remember to use the **simple present** to tell or ask about **habits, customs, routines, and facts**. (See Unit 8.)



I **charge** my phone every evening.  
Do you **charge** your phone in the morning?

2 Present Progressive

Remember to use the **present progressive** to tell or ask about an action happening **right now** or **these days**. (See Unit 15.)



He's **checking** email now.  
Is Enrique **checking** email?



Jon **is teaching** computer science this year.

3 Non-action Verbs

Some verbs do not describe actions. These verbs are called **non-action** or **stative verbs**.

**Non-action verbs** do the following:

- express emotion
- describe sense or appearance
- express a need or preference
- describe a thought
- show possession
- give a measurement
- express a state

We **like** that computer.  
The music **sounds** relaxing.  
I **prefer** email.  
Jennifer **knows** you.  
It **belongs** to me.  
It **costs** two hundred dollars.  
I **am** tired now.

**BE CAREFUL!** We usually do not use non-action verbs in the present progressive (-ing) form.

I **own** a smartphone. It **costs** a lot.  
**NOT** I'm ~~owning~~ a smartphone. It's ~~costing~~ a lot.

**USAGE NOTE** Some non-action verbs can also have an active meaning. When they have an active meaning, they can use the present progressive.

I **have** a new phone. I'm **having** trouble with it.  
I'm **thinking** about my phone. I **think** I need to return it.  
I'm **tasting** the soup. It **tastes** delicious.

NON-ACTION (STATIVE) VERBS

State of Being	Emotion	Sense/ Appearance	Need/ Preference	Mental Action	Possession	Measurement
be	love hate like dislike	hear see feel taste smell sound look	want need prefer	agree disagree guess understand know remember believe think mean worry	have own belong	cost weigh owe

## Present simple and present continuous

1 Match the sentences (1–4) with the uses of the present simple (a–d).

- 1 Water **boils** at 100°C.
- 2 His sister **works** at the sports centre.
- 3 The library **opens** at ten o'clock tomorrow.
- 4 I always **do** my homework on Saturday mornings.

We use the present simple for ...

- a habits and repeated actions.
- b permanent situations.
- c scientific facts.
- d future actions based on timetables and schedules.

2 Match the sentences (1–5) with the uses of the present continuous (a–e).

- 1 She's **always borrowing** my clothes!
- 2 What **are you doing** at the weekend?
- 3 My brother's **studying** to be an architect.
- 4 I can't speak to you now, I'm **having** dinner.
- 5 Families **are becoming** smaller and smaller these days.

We use the present continuous for ...

- a actions happening now.
- b temporary situations.
- c future plans.
- d annoying habits.
- e changing and developing situations in the present.

Each sentence has a mistake. Write the correct verb forms.

1. He is knowing all the answers. He *knows* all answers.
2. Are they having a cat? \_\_\_ they \_\_\_ a cat?
3. This coffee is tasting bitter. This coffee \_\_\_ bitter.
4. I am hating to get up early on weekends. I \_\_\_ to get up early on weekends.
5. Are you remembering his name? \_\_\_ you \_\_\_ his name?
6. These flowers are smelling wonderful. These flowers \_\_\_ wonderful.
7. I am not understanding this grammar. I \_\_\_ not \_\_\_ this grammar.
8. She is liking this restaurant. She \_\_\_ this restaurant.
9. What is this word meaning? What \_\_\_ this word ?
10. Are you believing in aliens? \_\_\_ you \_\_\_ in aliens?
11. Her sister is not wanting to change her job. Her sister \_\_\_ not \_\_\_ to change her job.
12. I'm needing a vacation. I \_\_\_ a vacation.

## Describing a Person | Personality Adjectives

1. patient: pacietīgs
2. calm: mierīgs
3. selfish: egoistisks
4. honest: godīgs
5. moody: kaprīzs, ar mainīgu garastāvokli
6. shy: kautrīgs
7. quiet: kluss
8. serious: nopietns
9. talkative: runātīgs
10. rude: rupjš
11. polite: pieklājīgs
12. kind: jauks, laipns
13. helpful: izpalīdzīgs
14. generous: dāsns, devīgs
15. reliable: uzticams
16. easy-going: bezrūpīgs
17. hard-working: strādīgs, čakls
18. cheerful: jautrs, priecīgs
19. noisy: skaļš, trokšņains
20. bossy: valdonīgs
21. funny: jautrs, jocīgs, smieklīgs
22. tidy: kārtīgs

## SPEAKING

Choose a person who you know well and prepare answers to these questions:

1. Who is this person to you? (name, age, relation)
2. How long have you known each other? (I have known him/her for 10 years.)
3. What is he/she like (personality)?
4. What does he/she do?
5. What does he/she do in the free time?
6. Does he/she have a good work-life balance?
7. What is he/she doing now?

In pairs, tell each other about your person and try to ask more questions.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Write about the person you described in the SPEAKING task.