

# PRESENT SIMPLE / PRESENT CONTINUOUS / STATE VERBS

## WE USE

### THE PRESENT SIMPLE

- ◆ to say when things happen if they take place regularly:  
*They **eat lunch** at two o'clock.*
- ◆ to talk about permanent situations:  
*I **work** in London.*
- ◆ to state general truths:  
*Popular CDs **sell** really fast.*  
*The moon **goes** round the earth.*
- ◆ to talk about habits and how often they happen:  
*You **buy** new clothes **every Saturday**.*
- ◆ to describe the plots of books and films:  
*The story **begins** and **ends** in Spain. The year **is** 1937.*

## WE USE

### THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- ◆ to talk about the present moment:  
*I'm **wearing** a pair of old jeans.*  
*I'm **looking** at that CD right now.*
- ◆ to suggest that an action is temporary, often with words like *now*, *at the moment*, *at present* or *just*:  
*They're **eating** lunch **at the moment**.*  
*I'm **working** in London **this week**. (= I don't usually work in London)*
- ◆ for an action around the time of speaking, which has begun but is not finished:  
*I'm **doing** my homework.*  
*I'm **looking** round the shops. (Millie isn't looking round at this moment – she has stopped to talk to Lisa – but she plans to continue looking round later)*
- ◆ for changing or developing situations:  
*That group's **becoming** more well known.*  
*The earth's temperature **is rising**.*
- ◆ with a word like *always* or *continually*, if we want to criticise or complain:  
*You're **always buying** new clothes! (= you buy too many)*  
*I'm **always forgetting** people's names. (= it's very irritating)*
- ◆ with *always* when something unexpected happens several times:  
*I'm **always meeting** my neighbour John near the station. I guess he works somewhere near there.*

B2 PANIC?????

Nope, thanks.



## WHICH ONE IS CORRECT?

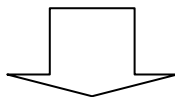
- 1 Teresa ..... Russian at evening classes this term.
- A is studying
  - B studies
  - C study



### STATE VERBS

These verbs are nearly always used in a simple rather than a continuous tense:

- ◆ thoughts: *believe, know, mean, realise, recognise, remember, suppose, understand, feel (= believe), think (= believe):*
- ◆ feelings: *adore, dislike, despise, hate, like, love, want, wish, prefer: They **despise** me because of the way I'm living.*
- ◆ belonging: *belong, have / have got (= possess), own, possess: It **belongs** to my father.*
- ◆ senses: *smell, taste, hear, see:*



### VERY IMPORTANT

We use *can* with these verbs to show we are talking about this moment:

*I can see the postman at the gate.*

*I can hear someone in the next room.*

- ◆ other state verbs: *contain, deserve, fit, seem, look (= seem), look like, matter, weigh:*  
*This medicine **contains** aspirin.*  
*Mark **weighs** 70 kilos.*  
▲ *Weigh* can be continuous when it means the action:  
*The shop assistant's **weighing** the cheese.*

## EXERCISE

In five of these sentences there is a verb in the wrong tense. Underline each mistake and write the correction.

- 1 My brother lives with us until he can find a flat of his own. .... is living .....
- 2 These days we're always having tests in school. ....
- 3 I'm not having enough money for a long holiday this year. ....
- 4 Everyone needs a break from work sometimes. ....
- 5 I'm liking a good cup of coffee after lunch. ....
- 6 I must lose weight - I'm weighing over 80 kilos. ....
- 7 Maria is going to the shops every Saturday morning. ....
- 8 What period of history are you studying this term? .....

## ANSWERS

2 correct 3 ~~I'm not having~~ I don't have / haven't got 4 correct  
5 ~~I'm liking~~ I like 6 ~~I'm weighing~~ I weigh 7 ~~is going~~ goes  
8 correct (> Grammar, parts 1-3)