



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ

English I

Course Unit 1: Reading and Grammar 1

Eftihia Landrou

School of Sciences

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ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ

Grammar 1: Present tenses

A. PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Theory

The *Present Simple* is used for something that is always true, for facts and regular events. For example:

- *In his text, Pólya **gives** a list of guidelines.*
- ***Do** you **have to** show that something is false?*
- *How **do** you **attack** this problem?*

The *Present Continuous* is used for something that is happening right now, or during a short period of time (but not always). It's also used for fixed future plans. For example:

- ***I'm working** part-time this year to pay for my rent.*
- ***He's taking** his gap year after his final exams.*

With some verbs (called *stative verbs*) we don't use the continuous form, but we prefer to use the *Present Simple*, even when we're talking about now. These verbs show a permanent situation (e.g. like, dislike, understand, know, believe, have, want, etc). For example:

- *What mathematicians really **want** is for their students to **understand** three things.*
- *Many people **think** of mathematics as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of numbers.*
- *I really **want** a break. (NOT: ~~I'm really wanting~~)*
- *I **don't understand** what he's saying. (NOT: ~~I'm not understanding~~)*

See also: [Grammar reference](#) (p. 4)

Exercises

A. Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

1. He work in Madrid.
2. Where do you coming from originally? Are you German?
3. He gives a lecture in class A2 at the moment.
4. I'm usually going to university by bus.
5. This meal is delicious. The meat is tasting really good.

B. Two students meet at an airport. Complete their conversation using the words in brackets.

A: Hi, Marina. Surprise, surprise.

B: Karl! Good to see you. What (1) (you / do) here?

A: I'm on my way to Greece for an Erasmus course.

B: Really? (2) (I / go) to Paris to see my brother.
A: Oh, (3) (he / work) in Paris?
B: No. He's studying there.
A: OK. (4) (How often / you / see) him?
B: (5) (We / try) to meet twice a year in Paris.
A: Sounds good.
B: It is. (6) (You / know) Paris?
A: Not very well. (7) (I / not / go) there very much. Anyway, how are your studies?
B: Good. (8) (I / write) my dissertation now. How's yours going?
A: Well, (9) (things / not / go / well) you know, because I've missed a lot of deadlines. Oh, I think (10) (your plane / board).
B: You're right. I've got to go. Bye.
A: Bye. Have a good trip! Really good to see you again.

C. Turn the following statements into questions.

E.g. You attack this problem.

How *do you attack this problem?*

1. You have to give an example.
.....
2. She needs to prove this statement.
.....
3. They have to show that something is false.
.....
4. You're working on something now.
What... ..
5. She's studying here.
What... ..
6. Each sentence is true.
.....

B. PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

Theory

Look at the following examples:

- *Many people **have written** about the subject before.*
- ***Have you seen** anything like it before?*

The verb forms in **bold** are in the *Present Perfect Simple* tense. This tense is formed with **has/have + past participle** of the verb. It is used for something that happened in the past, but the time is unspecified (=not said). For example:

- *I **have already finished** my project.*
- *I **haven't done** my work yet.*
- *He **has attended** this seminar before.*

Exercises

D. Try to answer these questions using the Present Perfect.

E.g. Do you have your password? No, I have lost it.

1. Do you remember his name? No,
2. Do you have homework? No,
3. Does he still live in Athens? No,
4. Do you want this book? No,
5. Are you going to select this course? No,

Grammar Reference

Present Simple and Continuous

Present Simple

- We can use the present simple for actions and situations which are not temporary, for example general and personal facts, regular events, likes and dislikes.

Mike **lives** in Rotterdam and works for the Port Authority.

He **speaks** five languages.

His partner, Greta, **makes** films for Dutch television.

Positive

I /you/we/they work hard.

He/she/it works hard.

Questions

Do I/we/you/they work hard?

Does he/she/it work hard?

Negative

I/you/we/they do not / don't work hard.

He/she/it does not / doesn't work hard.

Short answers

Yes, I/we/you/they do. No, I/we/you/they don't.

Yes, he/she/it does. No, he/she/it doesn't.

- The following adverbs and adverbial phrases are commonly used with the present simple tense:

**always almost always usually generally frequently often sometimes
occasionally**

rarely hardly ever never

We **usually fly** economy class, but **we sometimes go** business class for long flights.

I **hardly ever drive** to work. I almost **always go** by bike.

Present continuous

- We can use the present continuous for describing temporary actions and situations which are happening now, for example, current trends and short term events in progress.

It's raining.

I'm working from home today because they're painting my office.

I'm preparing some work for the meeting on Tuesday.

Results **are improving** and sales are going up.

Positive

I am / 'm staying here.

You/we/they are / 're staying

here.

He/she/it is / 's staying here.

Questions

Am I staying here?

Are you/we/they staying here?

Is he/she/it staying here?

Negative

I am not / 'm not staying here.

You/we/they are not / aren't staying here.

He/she/it is not / isn't staying here.

Short answers

Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

Yes, you/we/they are.

No, you/we/they aren't.

Yes, he/she/it is.

No, he/she/it isn't.

- The following adverbs and adverbial phrases are commonly used with the present continuous:

at the moment this week this year currently at present

At the moment I'm reading a book about the First World War.

We're currently developing a new customer database.

I'm working in a different office ***this week***.

- The present continuous is also used to talk about future fixed arrangements.

We are having a meeting tomorrow morning.

Verbs not usually in the continuous form

Some verbs do not usually have a continuous form.

For thinking and feeling

think *We think the report is excellent.*

believe *I believe he's in Japan at the moment.*

know *They know that she's coming today.*

understand *I'm sorry, I don't understand.*

remember *Do you remember that hotel in London?*

For possession

belong *This book belongs to Antonia Baena.*

have *Do you have any red shirts?*

own *He owns half the island.*

For the senses

feel *The office feels very cold today.*

smell *It smells awful.*

taste *But it tastes delicious.*

sound *It sounds OK.*

For wants and likes

want *They want a bigger pay rise.*

like *I like it here.*

love *I love you more than I can say.*

hate *She hates the winter.*

need *I need you so much.*

prefer *He prefers cross-country to downhill skiing.*

wish *I wish I could fly.*

For how things look or seem

look *She looks absolutely great.*

seem *It seems OK.*

Others

matter *It doesn't matter.*

depend *It depends on the weather.*

hear *I hear that you're getting married.*

owe *He owes me \$100.*

Answers to the exercises

Exercise A

1. works
2. do you come from
3. is giving
4. I usually go
5. tastes

Exercise B

1. are you doing
2. I'm going
3. does he work / is he working
4. How often do you see
5. We try to meet
6. Do you know
7. I don't go
8. I'm writing
9. things are not (aren't) going well
10. your plane is boarding

Exercise C

1. Do you have to give an example?
2. Does she need to prove this statement?
3. Do they have to show that something is false?
4. What are you working on now?
5. What is she studying here?
6. Is each sentence true?

Exercise D (suggested answers)

1. No, I have forgotten it.
2. No, I've (I have) already finished it.
3. No, he's (he has) moved to Patras.
4. No, I've already read it.
5. No, I've done it before.