

3

Compare each pair of sentences. Decide if they are both possible.

- a) 1) I'm living in Paris. *possible*
- 2) I'm owning a motorbike. *not possible*
- b) 1) We went there by car.
- 2) We went there in Helen's car.
- c) 1) Where is the bank? Do you know?
- 2) Do you know where the bank is?
- d) 1) I used to like history lessons.
- 2) I was liking history lessons.

Language comparisons

What problems do you have in learning English? How is your language different from English? Tick the points which are problematic for you.

- a) the articles *a/an, the*
- b) tenses *Talking about the present, past, future, etc.*
- c) prepositions *at, to, for, etc.*
- d) auxiliary verbs *do, have slowly, well*
- e) modal auxiliaries *can, must*
- f) conditional sentences *If I..., I will/I would...*
- g) passive voice *It is made of wood. The book was written in 1997.*
- h) forming questions *Who are you? Where do you live? etc.*
- i) adjectives and adverbs *happy, important*
- j) phrasal verbs *get up, look up a word*

Other ways of learning

Which of these ways of learning do you think are useful? Which ones do you regularly use?

- a) Reading widely for pleasure.
- b) Translating.
- c) Making lists of words, or problem points.
- d) Using a dictionary.
- e) Listening to songs.
- f) Keeping a diary.
- g) Reviewing your written work.
- h) Listening to the radio or watching television.

Which English?

English is a world language, and the English spoken in the USA or Australia differs from the English spoken in Britain. There are also differences between speakers from Scotland, Ireland and England, and between different parts of the same country. This book uses what is generally called Standard British English. References are also made to some differences in American English.

Unit 2 Present time 1

Explanations

Present simple: formation rules

- Present simple is formed with the bare infinitive form of the verb.
 - I like You like We like They like*
 - We add *s* in the third person singular *he/she/it*. Verbs ending in *o, s, ch, sh, x* add *-es*. Some verbs are irregular: *have, be*
 - She likes He goes She watches*
 - She misses He wishes He relaxes*
- *Do* and *does* questions
 - Present simple questions are formed with *do* and the bare infinitive form of the verb. We form third person singular forms with *does* and the bare infinitive form of the verb.
 - Do you like? Does she like?*
- *Do not* and *does not* negatives
 - Present simple negatives are formed with *do not* and the bare infinitive form of the verb. Third person singular is formed with *does not* and the bare infinitive form of the verb.
 - I do not like. She does not like.*
- *Do* and *does* contractions
 - In speech and informal writing, *do not* becomes *don't*, and *does not* becomes *doesn't*.
 - I don't like. She doesn't like.*
- *Do* and *does Wh-* questions
 - We also use *do/does* when we form questions with *when, what, why, where, how, etc.*
 - What do you want? Where does she live?*
- We use present simple to describe:
 - Habitual actions *I usually get up at 7.30.*
 - Personal facts *Liz plays in the school basketball team. We like ice-cream.*
 - Facts which are always true. *The sun rises in the east.*
- See Unit 3 for future meanings.

Meaning

Pronunciation

Verbs which end in /z/, /dz/, /s/, /sh/, /tsh/ and /ks/ make an extra syllable in the third person, pronounced /ɪz/.

watches misses relaxes

After /f/, /k/, /p/, /t/, third person sound is /s/. *hits /hɪts/*

Other third person /s/ are pronounced as /z/. *sees /si:z/*

Does is normally pronounced /dʌz/ and *says* /seɪz/.

Present continuous: formation rules

- Present continuous is formed from the verb *be* and the bare infinitive with *-ing*.

I am relaxing. He is relaxing. She is relaxing.

You are relaxing. We are relaxing. They are relaxing.

Present continuous is also called present progressive.

- Spelling

Verbs ending *-e* drop the *-e* when they add *-ing*.

like liking decide deciding write writing

Verbs with one syllable, ending in one vowel and one consonant, double the consonant when they add *-ing*.

sit sitting swim swimming dig digging

Verbs ending *-ie* change *-ie* to *-y*.

lie lying tie tying die dying

- Contractions

In speech and informal writing, the verb *be* is contracted:

I'm writing He's writing She's writing

You're writing We're writing They're writing

- Questions

We form present continuous questions by inverting the verb *be*.

Am I writing? Is he writing? Is she writing?

Are you writing? Are we writing? Are they writing?

- Wh- questions

What are you writing? Why are we writing?

- Negatives

We form present continuous negatives with the verb *be + not*.

I'm not writing He's not writing They're not writing

Meaning

- We use present continuous to describe: Actions happening at the present moment.
Sorry, I can't speak to you, I'm washing my hair.
- See Unit 3 for future meanings.

Practice

1

Choose the correct phrase underlined in each sentence.

- What time go you / do you go to bed on Saturdays?
- Why are you waiting / do you waiting outside the door?
- Don't ask Tim. He doesn't know / not knows the answer.
- I having / I'm having my lunch at the moment.
- When you leave / do you leave the house?
- I don't understand. What is happening / is happen?
- Excuse me, does you know / do you know the time?
- This is a great party. I'm having / Am I having a lovely time.
- We can't use the lift because it don't works / doesn't work.
- What you are doing / are you doing here?

2

Read the answers and then complete the questions.

- Where ... does Sue live ?
Sue? She lives at the end of Axwell Road.
- Do ?
Jim? No, I don't know him.
- What ?
At the moment? I'm doing my homework.
- Are ?
Here? No, I'm sitting over there.
- Do ?
Here? No, we change trains at the next station.
- Why ?
I'm wearing two pullovers because I feel cold!
- Is ?
David? No, he's not staying with Tom.
- When ?
Kate? She comes home at 6.30.

3

Rewrite each sentence so that the verb underlined is a negative contraction.

- Naomi and Bill are watching television.
.....
...Naomi and Bill aren't watching television.
- Peter likes chocolate cake.
.....
- Carol drives a little red sports car.
.....
- I'm using this pencil at the moment.
.....

- e) The children are having lunch in the kitchen.
.....
- f) The sun sets in the east.
.....
- g) I get up early on Saturday.
.....
- h) Kate is writing a novel.
.....
- i) Sue lives in London.
.....
- j) We 're waiting for you. /
.....

4
Complete each sentence with a present simple or present continuous form, using the words given.

- a) Do you like..... cheese sandwiches?
you like
- b) What time ?
the sun rise
- c) What at the moment?
you read
- d) Sorry, I can't talk. a bath.
I have
- e) We at school.
not watch videos
- f) Look out of the window!
it snow
- g) This is an examination! Why ?
you talk
- h) Ann to school by bus every day.
go
- i) a uniform at your school?
you wear
- j) Pat has got an interesting hobby. a boat.
she build

5
Choose the correct spelling from each pair of words.

- a) writing/writing
- b) diging/digging
- c) takeing/taking
- d) deciding/decideing
- e) swiming/swimming
- f) having/haveing
- g) lying/licing
- h) readding/reading
- i) using/useing
- j) waiting/waitting
- k) washeing/washing
- l) riding/rideing
- m) flyeing/flying
- n) studing/studying
- o) going/goeing

Unit 3 Present time 2

Explanations

Present simple: frequency adverbs

- Frequency adverbs are often used with present simple. They explain how often someone does an action, or something happens.

<i>always</i>	✓✓✓✓✓	<i>I always get up at 7.00.</i>
<i>often</i>	✓✓✓✓	<i>Pat often goes to football matches.</i>
<i>usually</i>	✓✓✓	<i>It usually rains when I go on holiday!</i>
<i>sometimes</i>	✓✓	<i>We sometimes eat pizza for lunch.</i>
<i>rarely</i>	✓	<i>Jane rarely listens to jazz.</i>
<i>never</i>	-	<i>My bus never arrives on time.</i>

- Note that the frequency adverb goes between the pronoun (*I, she*, etc.) or person and the verb. Other frequency adverbs are: *seldom* (✓), *hardly ever* (✓), *occasionally* (✓✓), *normally* (✓✓✓), *frequently* (✓✓✓✓).
- Frequency adverbs used with the verb *be* come after the verb.
Jim is usually late.

State and event verbs

- Some verbs are usually used in present simple and not in present continuous. These are sometimes called state verbs, because they describe continuing states, not sudden actions.
- *having* and *being*
belong to, contain, cost, depend on, have, own
- *thinking* and *feeling*
believe, forget, like, hate, know, prefer, understand
- Some verbs are more common as state verbs in present simple, and change their meaning when they are used as event verbs in present continuous. Event verbs describe actions.

<i>I have two sisters.</i>	(permanent)
<i>I'm having problems with this computer.</i>	(a temporary action)

 Examples include *be, have, taste, think*.
- Some state verbs can be used to describe temporary feelings.
How are you getting on at your new school?
I'm hating it!

Simple and continuous contrasts

Simple forms usually describe states which are permanent or a fact. Continuous forms describe events which are happening at this moment. They will not continue for ever, or are not complete, and are temporary or in progress.

<i>I live in Budapest.</i>	(permanent)
<i>I'm living in Budapest.</i>	(temporary)
<i>This plane lands in Frankfurt.</i>	(a fact)
<i>We're landing.</i>	(in progress)

Future reference

- Present continuous is also used to describe a future arrangement. There is usually a future time expression. This reference to the future emphasizes an event already arranged.

Paul is leaving early tomorrow morning.
My parents are buying me a mountain bike for my birthday.

This future reference is common when we describe social arrangements.

Are you doing anything on Saturday? We're going skating.

- See also Unit 8.

Other problems

- *feel*

Sometimes there is only a small difference of meaning between simple and continuous.

I feel awful! I'm feeling awful!

When we use present continuous, it suggests that we are asking whether any change has occurred.

How are you feeling now? Are you any better?

- Present perfect

Check with Unit 6 about uses of present perfect tenses for situations which might seem to refer to present time.

Sue is staying with Jill. (temporary situation)
Sue has been staying with Jill since March. (time until now)

- Present continuous with *always*

We can use *always* with present continuous when we are complaining about actions which we find annoying. We emphasize *always* in speech in this case.

You're always forgetting your keys!

- Historic present

In informal speech or in telling jokes present simple is used to describe narrative events in the past. This is also used in written summaries of film or serial plots.

A man walks into a bar and asks for a glass of water ...

The story so far: Michael meets Susan in the library and tells her about the missing earrings ...

- See also Unit 4 and 5.

Practice

1

Choose the correct sentence in each context.

- You want to invite a friend to your party on Friday. You say:
 - I have a party on Friday. Do you want to come?
 - I'm having a party on Friday. Do you want to come?
- You find a wallet on your desk and ask the people nearby:
 - Who does this wallet belong to?
 - Who is this wallet belonging to?
- A friend invites you to a snack bar at lunch time. You say:
 - Thanks, but I always go home.
 - Thanks, but I'm always going home.
- A friend opens the door and says: What are you doing? You reply:
 - I work as a secretary.
 - I'm repairing the computer.
- A friend asks: Do you like lemon tea? You reply:
 - I prefer tea with milk.
 - I'm preferring tea with milk.
- You haven't decided yet about buying a new bike. You say:
 - I think about it.
 - I'm thinking about it.
- A friend asks you if you have finished the book she lent you. You say:
 - Sorry, I still read it.
 - Sorry, I'm still reading it.
- It is a hot day, but a friend has a heavy coat on. You ask:
 - Why are you wearing a heavy coat?
 - Why do you wear a heavy coat?

2

Choose the correct word or phrase underlined in each sentence.

- That can't be right! (I don't believe/I'm not believing it!
- Carol can't swim today. She has/is having a cold.
- See you in the morning. I leave/I'm leaving now.
- What do you do/are you doing? If you drop it, it will explode!
- Stop doing that, Billy! You are /You are being very silly.
- I drive/I'm driving! You can sit in the back with Martin.
- What do we eat/are we eating this evening? I'm really hungry!
- You're a great cook! This cake tastes/is tasting wonderful.
- Where do you go/are you going? I haven't finished speaking to you!
- Chemistry is hard. I am not understanding/I don't understand it.

3

Put each verb given into present simple or present continuous.

- a) Ugh, don't show me that picture! I (hate) *hate* spiders!
- b) Who (you, go with) to the match on Saturday?
- c) In the winter, what (you, wear) ?
- d) I can't stand horror films. I (think) they're really silly!
- e) Diana (not, usually, sit) next to Ellen.
- f) Why (you, look at) me like that? Have I done something wrong?
- g) Excuse me, but (this bus, stop) outside the Post Office?
- h) I (not take) the bus to school today. My mother (give) me a lift.

4

Choose a sentence from a) to h) which is the best continuation of the conversations beginning 1) to 8).

- 1) What do you usually do on your birthday? ..a.
- 2) Would you like to meet again on Saturday?
- 3) What do you usually do when there is an earthquake?
- 4) Have you finished your homework?
- 5) What are you doing?
- 6) What are you doing on Friday?
- 7) Are you in the school basketball team?
- 8) What do you do?

- a) I have a party.
- b) I lie under the table.
- c) I work in a travel agency.
- d) Yes, we play every Friday.
- e) I'm still doing it.
- f) It's hot in here. I'm opening some windows.
- g) I'm going back to Canada tomorrow.
- h) I'm having a party.

5

Put each verb given into present simple or present continuous.

- a) What (usually, you, do) ...*do you usually do*... at the weekend?
- b) Don't worry about the cat. It (only eat) once a day.
- c) I can't work out the answer. (you, know) what it is?
- d) What's the matter? Why (you, stare) at me like that?
- e) Excuse me, but (you, speak) English? I'm looking for a hotel.
- f) Helen (stay) with her brother while her house is being repaired.
- g) You should go on a diet. (you, put) on weight.
- h) (they, speak) French or German? I can't tell the difference.

Unit 4 Past time 1

Explanations

Past simple: formation rules

- Regular verbs
Past simple regular verbs add *-ed* to the bare infinitive. Verbs ending in *-e* simply add *-d*.
I enjoyed the film. I loved the music.
All persons have the same form.
- Spelling problems
Verbs ending in consonant + *-y* change *-y* to *-ie*.
try tried cry cried
Verbs ending with one vowel and one consonant double the final consonant.
regret regretted fit fitted
- Irregular verbs
The most common past simple irregular verbs are listed on page 246. It is necessary to learn irregular forms.
eat ate drink drank wake woke
- Questions
Questions are formed with *did* and the bare infinitive.
Did you enjoy the film? Did you drink all the milk?
What did you do yesterday? Why did she leave?
- Negatives
Negatives are formed with *did not* and the bare infinitive. This is contracted to *didn't* in speech and informal writing.
The coat didn't fit me. Carol didn't eat very much.
- Past simple is used to describe definite events in the past. A definite time expression can be used with these events.
I enjoyed the film we saw last night.
We listened to some new CDs yesterday afternoon.
- Past simple is used to describe habitual actions in the past.
Every day we got up early and went to the beach.
- See Unit 7 for contrasts with present perfect simple.

Meaning