

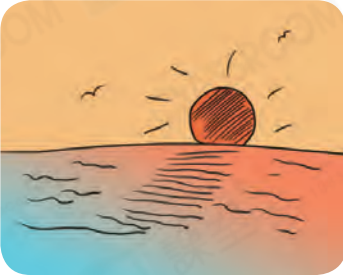

1

Tenses



Usage

We use the **simple present tense** and the **present continuous tense** to talk about:

The simple present tense	The present continuous tense
<p>1. a fact.</p>  <p>e.g. The sun rises in the east.</p>	<p>1. an action that is happening at the time of speaking or writing.</p>  <p>Help! The dog is chasing me!</p>
<p>2. a habit.</p> <p>e.g. Ivy gets up at six every morning. She does not drink any coffee.</p>	<p>2. a temporary situation.</p> <p>e.g. Ivy is staying with us in London this summer. (She will probably leave after summer.)</p>
<p>3. an opinion.</p> <p>e.g. My parents do not like sweets.</p>	<p>3. an action in a picture or a photo.</p> <p>e.g. The boys are fishing in this picture.</p>

We use the **simple past tense** to talk about things that happened and finished in the past.

e.g. Mr Choi **wrote** letters to his wife 30 years ago, but he **doesn't** do it now.

e.g. My parents **returned** to Hong Kong yesterday.





Educator's Tips



We often use the following expressions of time or signal words with different tenses:

The simple present	<i>always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, never, every day, once a month, twice a week, three times a year</i>
The present continuous	<i>now, at present, at the / this moment, currently, 'Look!'</i>
The simple past	<i>a week ago, last Saturday, this morning, yesterday, in the past, in 1993, once upon a time</i>



Part 1 The Simple Present

We form statements and questions in the simple present tense with the verb *to be* (*is, am, are*) and other verbs in the following ways:

Verb <i>to be</i>	Other verbs	
Mary and Ken are good friends.	have	Mary and Ken often have dinner at home.
I am not talkative.	like	Cindy does not like horror films.
Is Henry afraid of dogs?	play	Does Henry play with Bobby every day?
Which class are you in, 2A or 2B?	learn	What do you learn in English lessons?

Exercise 1

Form questions and answers using the correct form of the words in brackets.

- A: *Does Daisy get up early every day?* _____ (Daisy / get up early / every day)
B: No, _____ *she does not / doesn't* _____.
- A: _____ (water / boil / at 100°C)
B: Yes, _____.
- A: _____ (your sisters / be / secondary students)
B: No, _____.
- A: How does Mr Leung go to work?
B: _____
- A: What do Mr and Mrs Roberto usually have for dinner?
B: _____ (spaghetti and soup)





Part 2 The Present Continuous

We form statements and questions in the present continuous tense with the verb *to be* and the present participle (*-ing* form of verbs) in the following ways:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Verb to be | Present participle | Verb to be | Present participle |
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| e.g. Angela is | sleeping. | She is not | studying. |
- e.g. Rita and Jimmy **are not staying** in Hong Kong currently.
- e.g. What **are you doing** in this photo? **Are you cooking?**
- e.g. I **am doing** the project now.



Educator's Tips

Some verbs are not used in the continuous form. They are the **non-action verbs** which describe senses, feelings, possession, states of mind, etc.

taste	Lemons taste sour. (Sense)	belong	The car belongs to Joe. (Possession)
like	Does John like animals? (Feeling)	know	I know what to do. (State of mind)
want	We don't want to go cycling. (Feeling)	forget	Zoe forgets to pay the bill. (State of mind)

Exercise 2

There is a mistake in each sentence. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

- Mum prepares dinner at the moment. _____ *is preparing* _____
- Does the man understands Cantonese? _____
- Jasmine feeds her cat in this picture. _____
- Are you know Lisa Chan? She's a famous writer. _____
- Ben is feeling upset because he has lost his job. _____
- Do the shop belong to you? _____
- Does Tim doing his homework now? _____
- Do you remembering the lesson? _____



Part 3 The Simple Past

We form statements and questions in the simple past tense with the verb *to be* (*was, were*) and other verbs in the following ways:

- e.g. Heidi **went** home for dinner last night but her parents **were not** there.
- e.g. Where **did** you **go** during the summer holidays? **Were** you happy?
- e.g. I **did not travel** to London last month.



Educator's Tips



We usually form the simple past tense by changing the spelling of the verbs. Regular and irregular verbs change their forms in different ways:

Regular verbs	Irregular verbs
talk → talk ed	blow → blew
like → lik ed	sit → sat
study → stud ied	bring → brought
plan → plan ned	cost → cost

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

be have not realise feel take think get

23rd September, 20XX

Dear Diary,

Today was our school Sports Day. I (1) _____ a terrible experience. I

(2) _____ part in the 4 x 100 m relay with James. Before the race, I

(3) _____ we would probably win since James (4) _____

the best runner in our class. However, I (5) _____ into the wrong lane and

I (6) _____ it, so we were disqualified!

I'm very upset because I (7) _____ really sorry for letting my team down. I

won't let this happen again!

Unit Recap

Janet is writing a letter to her aunt about her new life in Canada. Complete the letter with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Dear Aunt Rebecca,

How're you? I heard from Sylvia that you **(1)** _____ (give) birth to a baby girl last week. I **(2)** _____ (be) so sorry that I haven't been able to come and visit you. I wish you and your baby happiness and good health!

I **(3)** _____ (do) well in Canada now. I'm in Grade 8 this year. The subjects aren't too difficult so I **(4)** _____ (not have) any problems with my studies. Although I **(5)** _____ (not be) fluent in English, my teachers and classmates are patient to help me improve.

I **(6)** _____ (live) with my host family currently. Mr and Mrs Jones often **(7)** _____ (cook) me tasty dishes. We **(8)** _____ (visit) Quebec last month. **(9)** _____ you _____ (know) where it is? Mr Jones **(10)** _____ (plan) another short trip to Vancouver in the autumn at the moment! We **(11)** _____ (feel) so excited about that!

During my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my classmates. Last Friday, we **(12)** _____ (go) camping for the first time. It **(13)** _____ (be) a *fantastic* experience! I **(14)** _____ (not bring) my camera but my best friend Annie did. She **(15)** _____ (take) many photos for us.

A funny photo of us is attached. We **(16)** _____ all _____ (laugh) because Martin **(17)** _____ (hold) a *beetle* in his hand! **(18)** _____ you _____ (take) any photos with your baby? I really **(19)** _____ (want) to have a look!

Write back when you have time. Take care!

Love,
Janet



Vocabulary:

fantastic (adj.): extremely good

beetle (n.): an insect with a hard shell-like back