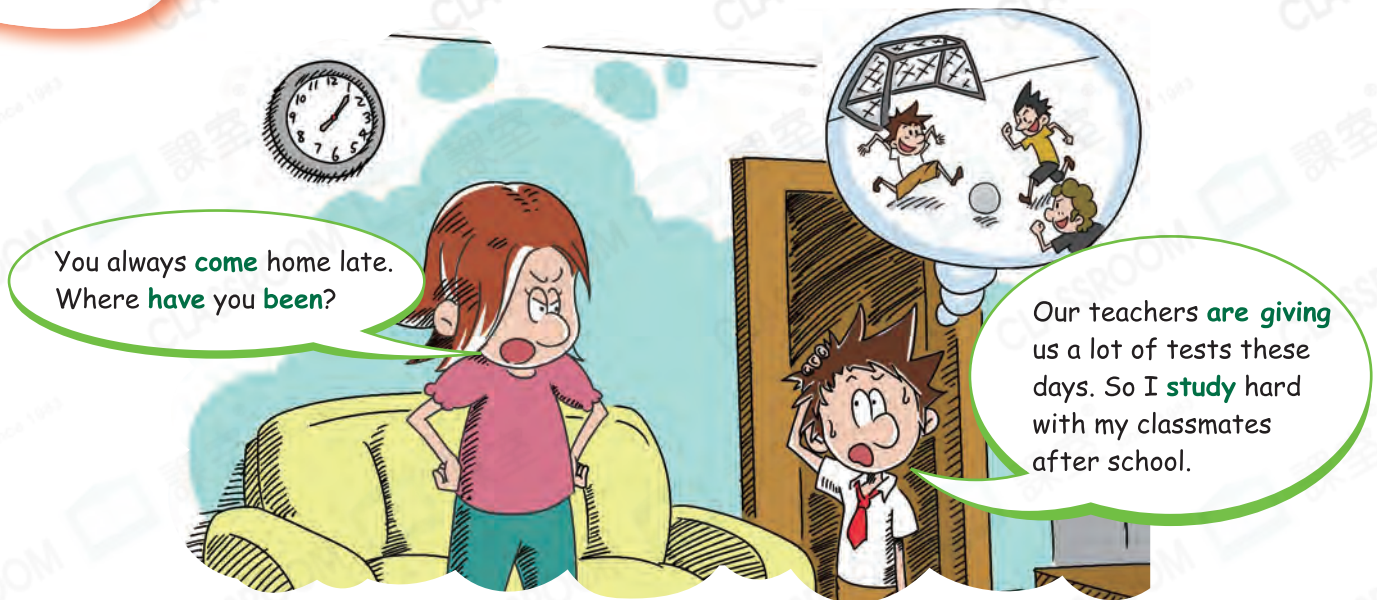


1

Talking about the present



Usage

We usually use the **simple present tense** to talk about long-lasting situations or things that happen regularly or all the time.

e.g. A: *Does Mr Ho work in the office?*

e.g. B: *No, he does not. He is a postman. He delivers letters to the households.*



We usually use the **present continuous tense** to talk about things that are happening at the moment of speaking and writing.

e.g. A: *Are the students singing right now?*

e.g. B: *No, they aren't. They are running in the playground.*



We usually use the **present perfect tense** to talk about past events that are connected to the present.

e.g. *James has lost his keys. He can't get into his house.*





Part 1 The Simple Present

We use the simple present tense to talk about:

1. a fact. **e.g.** *Beijing is the capital of China.*
2. a habit. **e.g.** *Dad **does not read** on moving vehicles.*
3. an opinion. **e.g.** *I **don't like** coffee.*
4. a present state. **e.g.** *You **look** pale and tired.*

We usually use the simple present tense with the following adverbs and expressions of frequency: *always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, seldom, never, every day, twice a week.*

Exercise 1.1

Fill in the blanks with the correct simple present form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Students in Hong Kong do not go / don't go (not go) to school in August.
2. Kelly _____ (not speak) English. She speaks Mandarin.
3. This is ridiculous. I _____ (not believe) it is true.
4. You _____ (look) tired. _____ you _____ (need) a rest?
5. The little girl _____ (have) one hundred dollars. She _____ (want) to buy her mum a Mother's Day gift.
6. Sue: _____ (be) your dad happy with your exam results?
James: No, he _____ (be). He always _____ (think) I should do better.

Exercise 1.2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words given. Each word can be used ONCE only.

be spend cure go often seldom every day sometimes

1. Jon and Dave are good friends. They often spend their time together.
2. My dad is a vet. He _____ sick animals _____.
3. I always get up early so I _____ late for school.
4. My grandma is trendy. She _____ clubbing.



Part 2 The Present Continuous

We use the present continuous tense to talk about:

- actions that are happening now. **e.g.** *We **are doing** grammar exercises now.*
- temporary situations. **e.g.** *Jane **is not staying** with her parents this summer.*
- actions in pictures or photos. **e.g.** *I **am feeding** a giraffe in this picture!*

We usually use the present continuous tense with the following time expressions or signal words: *now, at present, at the (this) moment, currently, 'Look!', 'Listen!'.*



Educator's Tips



We usually do not use certain non-action verbs (verbs that show senses, feelings, possession and states of mind) such as *see, hear, want, hate, have, possess, know, forget, hope, sound* and *contain* in the continuous form.

X *I **am forgetting** my dad's birthday!*

✓ *I **forget** my dad's birthday!*

Exercise 2

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

1. A: Is Lily doing her homework now? (Lily / do her homework / now)

B: No, she is not / isn't.

2. A: Do you like strawberry ice cream?

B: Yes, _____.

3. A: Is your sister taking Japanese lessons this term?

B: No, _____.

4. A: Look! _____ (the boy / do magic tricks)

B: Yes, _____.

5. A: _____ currently? (the workers / go on strike)

B: Yes, _____.

6. A: _____ (your brother / have a cat)

B: No, _____.





Part 3 The Present Perfect

We use the present perfect tense to talk about actions that:

1. began in the past and continue up to the present.

e.g. Wendy **has been** a ballet dancer since 1993.

2. happened in the past with effects on the present.

e.g. Dave **has just finished** his work. You can check it.



We usually use the present perfect tense with the following time expressions: *for, since, already, yet, before, just, ever, never, recently.*

Exercise 3

Fiona is writing an e-mail to her friend, Nicole, who lives in Sydney. Complete the e-mail with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used ONCE only.

not see remember change go have fly become miss

To: nicolecheng@classmail.com.hk
 From: fionawu@rosemail.com.hk
 Subject: Hello from Hong Kong

Hi Nicole,

Time (1) _____. We (2) _____ each other for a year! Is everything going well in Sydney? (3) _____ you _____ us a lot? Things in Hong Kong (4) _____ a lot since you left. Our class teacher Mrs Liu (5) _____ on leave for weeks already because she (6) _____ just _____ a baby.

(7) _____ you _____ my obese brother Andy? He's going to the gym and (8) _____ slimmer recently!

What about you? Do you enjoy your school life over there?

Write back soon.

Fiona

Unit Recap

Wilson is a member of the school debate team. He wrote a debate speech for the motion 'Mobile phones should be banned in schools'. There is one mistake about tenses in each numbered line. Underline the mistakes and write the correct words above them.

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Today's motion is that mobile phones should be banned in schools. We are supporting ^{support}
2. the motion because we are believing that allowing mobile phones in schools definitely
3. do more harm than good to students.
4. Firstly, the use of mobile phones distracted students from learning. To students,
5. mobile phones has been more and more **irresistible**. As we all know, playing with
6. mobile phones is becoming students' favourite pastime since their prevalence a few
7. years ago. However, the ringtones of mobiles frequently interfered classes. As a result,
8. many schools banned the use of mobile phones despite its advantages.
9. Secondly, the possession of smartphones will create peer pressure for students who
10. do not have them in recent years. Nowadays, many parents have bought smartphones
11. for their children as gifts. Students can download different social applications like
12. WhatsApp and always are staying connected with their friends and classmates all
13. the time. Those who did not use smartphones currently feel **inferior** and disconnected
14. from the others easily.
13. In conclusion, are you agreeing allowing mobile
- phones in schools generates many problems? I expect
14. that the answer was positive. Therefore, we support
- the motion that mobile phones should be banned in
- schools. Thank you.



Vocabulary:

irresistible (adj.): so strong that it is impossible to refuse or avoid

inferior (adj.): not as good as somebody or something else