

UNIT ONE

Present Time: Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect Simple, Present Perfect Continuous, Stative Verbs

Present Simple

Form	statement: <i>I/you/we/they travel...</i>	He/she/it <i>travels...</i>
	negative: <i>I/you/we/they don't travel...</i>	He/she/it <i>doesn't travel...</i>
	question: Do <i>I/you/we/they travel...?</i>	Does <i>he/she/it travel...?</i>

Use	Example
Current habits	<i>Toby walks to work.</i>
To talk about how often things happen	<i>Angela doesn't visit us very often.</i>
Permanent situations	<i>Carlo works in a travel agent's.</i>
States	Do you have an up-to-date passport?
General truths and facts	<i>Poland is in the European Union.</i>



Watch out!

- We can also use *do/does* in present simple statements for emphasis.
- ✓ “You don’t like going by bus, do you?” “Actually, I **do like** going by bus for short distances.”
- ✓ *The bus isn’t quicker than the train but it **does stop** right*

Words and phrases often used with the present simple

always/ usually/ generally/ often/ sometimes/ rarely/ seldom / never / whenever/ nowadays / these days / from time to time/ every now and then/ most/much of the time/ It’s or That’s the last time

Present Continuous

Form	<p><i>statement: I am driving... You/we/they are driving... He/she/it is driving...</i></p> <p><i>negative: I'm not driving... You/we/they aren't driving... or You're/we're/they're not driving... He/she/it isn't driving... or He's/she's/it's not driving...</i></p> <p><i>question: Am I driving...? Are you/we/they driving...? Is he/she/it driving...?</i></p>
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Use	Example
Actions happening now	<i>Mike is driving to work at the moment.</i>
Temporary series of actions	<i>Taxi drivers aren't stopping at the train station because of the roadworks.</i>
Temporary situations	<i>Are they staying in a hotel near the Olympic stadium?</i>
Changing and developing situations	<i>Holidays abroad are becoming increasingly popular.</i>
Annoying habits (usually with <i>always</i>)	<i>Dad is always cleaning the car when I want to use it!</i>

Words and phrases often used with the present continuous

now / right now / for now/ currently/ at the moment / for the time being/ at present /today / this week/etc. / It's or That's the last time

A. Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, present simple or present continuous, in each gap.

1. My brother _____ (do) a degree at university so I _____ (see) him very often, unfortunately.
2. Darren _____ usually _____ (get) home until about eight o'clock.
3. I'm sorry to hear that your parents _____ (get) divorced.
4. You _____ (go) to the end of the street and _____ (turn) right.
5. Why _____ ice _____ (float)?
6. My dad _____ (eat) meat at all—he's a vegetarian.
7. _____ you _____ (phone) me from your mobile? The line's not very good.
8. _____ you often _____ (order) things online?
9. My dad _____ (always/ tell) jokes! They're usually rubbish, though.
10. Actually, he _____ (wear) a tie to work most days.

B. Write one word in each gap. The words you supply should related to time signals.

1. Why do you _____ leave the light on when you go out of the room? You wait till you start paying the electricity bill!
2. Fifteen teachers are teaching here full-time at _____.
3. My sister's revising for her GCSEs at the _____.
4. I'm quite happy living at home for the time _____, but I guess I'll have to get my own place eventually.
5. It's true that Ralph calls us quite _____, but most students only call their parents when they need something, don't they?
6. We go to the cinema _____ now and then, but only if there's something good on.
7. I'm alone in my study bedroom reading _____ of the time.
8. Tim _____ goes out to play until he's done all his homework. I just don't allow it!
9. I see Lucinda from _____ to time, but not on a regular basis.
10. I'm sitting in the garden _____ now talking to you on my mobile.
11. That's the last _____ we're inviting Dave to one of our parties!
12. Do young people these _____ have more free time than they did in the past?
13. My mum fills up with petrol _____ she goes to the supermarket.
14. I'm staying in _____ now, but I might go out a bit later on.
15. _____ is the last time I ever order from that pizzeria. It was disgusting!

Present Perfect Simple

Form	<i>have/has + past participle</i>	
	<i>statement: I/you/we/they have flown...</i>	<i>He/she/it has flown...</i>
	<i>negative: I/you/we/they haven't flown...</i>	<i>He/she/it hasn't flown...</i>
	<i>question: Have I/you/we/they flown...?</i>	<i>Has he/she/it flown...?</i>

Use	Example
Situations and states that started in the past and are still true	<i>She's had her motorbike for over six years.</i>
A series of actions continuing up to now	<i>We've travelled by taxi, bus, plane and train – all in the last twenty-four hours!</i>
Completed actions at a time in the past which is not mentioned	<i>Have you ever flown in a helicopter?</i>
Completed actions where the important thing is the present result	<i>I've booked the coach tickets.</i>



- Phrases such as *It's the first/second/etc. time...* are followed by the present perfect simple.
- ✓ *It's the second time I've **been** on a plane.*

US vs UK Grammar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speakers of American English often use the past simple in situations where speakers of British English would use the present perfect simple. US: <i>We already saw the Sphinx.</i> UK: <i>We've already seen the Sphinx.</i> ▪ Speakers of American English use <i>gotten</i> as the past participle of the verb <i>get</i>, except when <i>get</i> means <i>have</i> or <i>possess</i>. Speakers of British English only ever use <i>got</i>. US: <i>We've already gotten Dan a new backpack for his summer vacation.</i> UK: <i>We've already got Dan a new rucksack for his summer holiday.</i>

Present Perfect Continuous

Form *statement: I/you/we/they have been travelling... He/she/it has been travelling...*
negative: I/you/we/they haven't been travelling... He/she/it hasn't been travelling...
question: Have I/you/we/they been travelling...? Has he/she/it been travelling...?

Use	Example
Actions continuing up to the present moment	<i>We have been driving for hours. Can't we have a break soon?</i>
Actions stopping just before the present moment	<i>I'm out of breath because I've been running to get here in time.</i>



Watch out!

- The present perfect continuous is often used with words and phrases like *all day/week/year/etc.*, *for*, *since*, *just*, etc.
- ✓ *We've been walking for hours and I need a rest.*
- The present perfect continuous is **not** normally used with the words *ever* and *never*.
- ✓ *Have you ever flown in a helicopter before?*
- ✗ ~~*Have you ever been flying in a helicopter before?*~~
- Sometimes there is very little difference in meaning between the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous and sometimes there is a difference in meaning.
- ✓ *I have worked at the airport for four years. = I have been working at the airport for four years.*
- ✓ *I have read that book about cruise ships. (I have finished it.) I have been reading that book about cruise ships. (I have not finished it.)*

C Circle the correct word or phrase. If both are correct, circle both.


1. They've **filled** / **been filling** over six bags with rubbish from the beach already.
2. Have you **followed**/ **been following** that story in the papers about the elephant that escaped from the zoo?
3. Apparently, they've just **caught**/ **been catching** it.
4. It's the first time I've **heard** / **been hearing** *The Editors* play live.
5. Jake and I have **thought**/ **been thinking** about where to go on holiday for weeks ,but we just can't decide.
6. You can't want to go to the toilet already - we've only **driven** / **been driving** for about ten minutes so far!
7. I've **stood** / **been standing** up all day and my feet are killing me!
8. Has Jan **worked** / **been working** for the company since it started?
9. It's the first time I have ever **eaten**/**been eating** octopus!
10. I've not **finished**/**been finishing** the book yet so I can't tell you what happens.

Stative Verbs

Stative verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses because they don't describe actions.

- ✓ I see what you mean.
- ✗ I am seeing what you mean.

Use	Example
Stative verbs often refer to:	
thinking	<i>believe, imagine, know, mean, think, understand</i>
existence	<i>be, exist</i>
emotions	<i>hate, like, love, need, prefer, satisfy, want</i>
the human senses	<i>hear, see, smell, sound, taste</i>
appearance	<i>appear, look, resemble, seem</i>
possession and relationships between things	<i>belong to, consist of, have, include, involve, own</i>



- Some verbs (such as *be, have, imagine, look, see, smell, taste, think*) are stative with one meaning and non-stative with another meaning.
- ✓ *Do you **have** your plane ticket with you?* (state: possession)
- ✓ *Are you **having** lunch at the moment?* (action: eating)

D Rewrite correctly. Change the words or phrases in bold.

1. My Dad is **often getting up** late on Saturday mornings. => _____
2. **Are you speaking** any other languages apart from English? => _____
3. **I already buy** all my Christmas presents ,and it's only October! => _____
4. It's the first time **I'm ever having** a party at home. => _____
5. Actually, I think Darren **does works** quite hard sometimes. => _____
6. Carlo is **never eating** Chinese food before. => _____
7. Sean **already books** a table for tonight. => _____
8. **Needs Melanie** any help painting her new flat? => _____

E Complete the sentences, using the words in the box.

already – before – ever – for – just – rarely – since – so – still – yet

1. I've _____ realized what's different! You've changed your hair.
2. We've had broadband at home _____ about 2005.
3. We can't cancel the party now—I've _____ invited everyone!
4. Have you _____ thought of going into business on your own?
5. We haven't started _____ so you can join in if you like.
6. We've never been to New York _____, so we're both really looking forward to it.
7. I _____ haven't found my sunglasses.
8. I've been looking for a website like this _____ ages!
9. The company's profits have been steadily increasing so _____ this quarter.
10. He has _____ missed a deadline during his career—only once due to unforeseen circumstances.”

F Write one word in each gap.

Humans and other life forms

Humans (1) _____ much in common with other life forms on Earth. (2) _____ the very first life forms appeared, all living things have (3) _____ desperately struggling to survive the harsh and changing conditions of our planet. This has (4) _____ adapting to new situations and, in many cases, has (5) _____ to either evolution or extinction. We are (6) _____ alone in making use of the world around us (birds use twigs to build nests, for example) or in being particularly skillful (spiders make intricate webs). Where we (7) _____ differ from other life forms, however, (8) _____ in our ability to record, and learn from, our collective history. In this, it (9) _____ that we (10) _____ unique. (11) is still much mankind (12) _____ not know about the earliest humans, of course, but we are increasingly (13) _____ a species with detailed knowledge about our past. The more we learn, the better (14) _____ our chances of survival in the future. It must also be recognized, however, that we are also the only species on Earth which (15) _____ managed to create the means to destroy the planet we live on.

HOMEWORK

1. Ian a shower at the moment, so could you call back in about half an hour?
 - A. takes
 - B. is taking
 - C. has taken
 - D. has been taking
2. to Ipswich before?
 - A. Do you ever go
 - B. Are you ever going
 - C. Have you ever been
 - D. Have you ever been going
3. I to all the local newspapers and TV stations to complain.
 - A. already write
 - B. already writing
 - C. have already written
 - D. have already been writing
4. TV for the last four hours? Turn it off and get some exercise!
 - A. Do you watch
 - B. Are you watching
 - C. Watched you
 - D. Have you been watching
5. Eric, hockey competitively or just for fun?
 - A. do you usually play
 - B. are you usually playing
 - C. have you usually played
 - D. have you usually been playing
6. That's the first time an answer right today!
 - A. I get
 - B. I am getting
 - C. I have got
 - D. I have been getting
7. Jessica has left, I'm afraid.
 - A. already
 - B. yet
 - C. still
 - D. so far
8. Dan in the living room while we redecorate his bedroom.
 - A. sleeps
 - B. is sleeping
 - C. has slept
 - D. does sleep

9. Unfortunately, Simone a day off very often.

- A. doesn't get
- B. isn't getting
- C. hasn't got
- D. hasn't been getting

10. Actually, I a cup of tea first thing every morning but then I switch to coffee.

- A. do drink
- B. am drinking
- C. have drunk
- D. have been drinking

Answer Key A: 1. is doing/see 2. doesn't/get 3. ae getting 4. go/turn 5. does float
6. doesn't eat 7. are/phoning 8. do/order 9. is always telling 10. wears

Answer Key B: 1. always 2. present 3. moment 4. being 5. often 6. every 7. most
8. never 9. time 10. right 11. time 12. days 13. wherever 14. for 15. that

Answer Key C: 1. filled 2. been following 3. caught 4. hear 5. been thinking
6. been driving 7. been standing 8. worked/been working 9. eaten 10. finished

Answer Key D: 1. often gets up / 2. Do you speak / 3. I've already bought / 4. I've ever had /
5. works/does work / 6. has never eaten / 7. Sean has/Sean's already booked / 8. Does Melanie
need

Answer Key E: 1. just 2. since 3. already 4. ever 5. yet 6. before
7. still 8. for 9. far 10. Rarely

Answer Key F:

1. have 2. since 3. been 4. mean/involved 5. led 6. not 7. do 8. Is
9. appears/seems 10. are 11. there 12. does 13. becoming 14. are 15. Has

Homework Key:

1. B 2. C 3. C 4. D 5. A 6. C 7. A 8. B 9. A 10. A