

## Present simple vs. Present continuous

Navigating the complex world of English grammar can be an uphill struggle. But by following this blog, you will be able to understand the rules and uses of many of the key grammatical elements of English. This week we will be tackling the uses of the present simple and present continuous

### Present Simple.

When it comes to learning English grammar, the present simple is normally the first stop for most learners. It is the most commonly used verb tense in English so it is essential to understand how and when to correctly use it.

We form the present simple like this:

Regular verbs (Eat- *comer*)

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I <i>yo</i>	Eat	Don't eat	Do I eat...?
You <i>tú</i>	Eat	Don't eat	Do you eat...?
He/She/It <i>él/ella/lo/la</i>	Eats	Doesn't eat	Does he/she/it eat...?
We <i>Nosotros/as</i>	Eat	Don't eat	Do we eat...?
They <i>ellos/as</i>	Eat	Don't eat	Do they eat...?

Irregular verbs (to be- *ser/estar*)

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I <i>yo</i>	am	Am not	Am I...?
You <i>tú</i>	are	Are not (aren't)	Are you...?
He/She/It <i>él/ella/lo/la</i>	is	Is not (isn't)	Is he/she/it...?
We <i>Nosotros/as</i>	are	Are not (aren't)	Are we...?
They <i>Ellos/as</i>	are	Are not (aren't)	Are they..?

Uses:

We use the present simple to talk about:

- Our routines and habits:  
"We always go to school by bus." "*Siempre vamos al colegio en autobús.*"
- Things that are generally true or permanent states at the present time:  
"My Brother lives in London." "*Mi hermano vive en Londres.*"

- Stating facts or opinions:  
“It is sunny today.” *“Hace sol hoy.”*  
“I like football.” *“Me gusta el fútbol.”*
- Talking about scheduled events:  
“The train leaves at 8:30.” *“El tren sale a las 8.30.”*

## Present continuous

As well as the present simple, the present continuous is another form of communicating in the present. It is formed like this:

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I <i>yo</i>	I am going	I am not going	Am I going?
You <i>tú</i>	You are going	You are not going	Are you going?
He/She/It <i>él/ella/lo/la</i>	He/She/It is going	He/She/It is not going	Is he/she/it going?
We <i>nosotros</i>	We are going	We are not going	Are we going?
They <i>ellos</i>	They are going	They are not going	Are they going?

We use the present continuous to talk about:

- Things that are happening now:  
“We are studying English at the moment.” *“Estamos estudiando inglés de momento.”*
- Future plans or intentions:  
“I’m eating pizza for dinner tonight.” *“Estoy cenando pizza esta noche.”*
- Expressing annoyance about something:  
“You are always interrupting me!” *“Siempre me estás interrumpiendo.”*
- Expressing temporary situations:  
“I’m staying with a friend until I can find an apartment.” *“Me quedo con un amigo hasta que pueda encontrar un apartamento.”*

Now that you’ve read the rules of using both tenses, now let’s do some practice to reinforce your understanding!

Complete the sentences using either the present simple or continuous:

1. I **read** a new book every month.
2. She **is studying** for her final exams this week.
3. They **eat** dinner at 7 o'clock every evening.
4. He **is writing** a novel these days.
5. I **am listening** to music right now.
6. We **exercise** at the gym on Mondays and Wednesdays.
7. They **are watching** a movie at the cinema tonight.
8. The bus **leaves** at 11:00.
9. I **am meeting** my friends this weekend:

10. We **are working** in the garden at the moment.

Correct the mistakes in these sentences:

1. I **go** to school every day.
2. We **are studying** for our English exam right now.
3. He always **plays** video games.
4. I **am doing** my homework this weekend.
5. It **is** cold today.