

# Present Continuous and Simple Present (1)

## (I am doing and I do)

A

### Present continuous (I am doing)

We use the *present continuous* for something that is happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

#### I am doing

past                      now                      future

- The water is boiling. Could you turn it off?
- Listen to those people. What language are they speaking?
- Let's go out. It isn't raining now.
- A: Don't disturb me. I'm busy.  
B: Why? What are you doing?
- I'm going to bed now. Good night.
- Maria is in Vancouver now. She's learning English.

Use the present continuous for temporary situations:

- I'm living with some friends until I find an apartment.
- "You're working hard today." "Yes, I've got a lot to do."

See Unit 1 for more information.

### Simple present (I do)

We use the *simple present* for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

#### I do

past                      now                      future

- Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, do you speak English?
- It doesn't rain very much in the summer.
- What do you usually do on weekends?
- What do you do? (= What's your job?)
- I always go to bed before midnight.
- Most people learn to swim when they are children.

Use the simple present for permanent situations:

- My parents live in Boston. They have lived there all their lives.
- John isn't lazy. He works very hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

B

### I always do and I'm always doing

Usually we say "I always do something" (= I do it every time):

- I always go to work by car (*not* I'm always going)

You can also say "I'm always doing something," but this has a different meaning.

For example:

I've lost my key again. I'm always losing things.



"I'm always losing things" does not mean that I lose things every time. It means that I lose things too often or more often than normal.

You're always -ing means that you do something very often, more often than the speaker thinks is normal or reasonable.

- You're always watching TV. You should do something more active.
- John is never satisfied. He's always complaining.

# Exercises

### 3.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct the verbs that are wrong.

1. Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. RIGHT
2. The water boils. Could you turn it off? is boiling
3. Look! That man tries to open the door of your car. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The moon goes around the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I have to go now. It gets late. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I usually go to work by car. \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Hurry up! It's time to leave." "OK, I come." \_\_\_\_\_
9. I hear you've got a new job. How does it go? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3.2 Put the verb in the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

1. Let's go out. It isn't raining (not / rain) now.
2. Julia is very good at languages. She speaks (speak) four languages very well.
3. Hurry up! Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for you.
4. "\_\_\_\_\_ (you / listen) to the radio?" "No, you can turn it off."
5. "\_\_\_\_\_ (you / listen) to the radio every day?" "No, just occasionally."
6. The Nile River \_\_\_\_\_ (flow) into the Mediterranean.
7. The river \_\_\_\_\_ (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
8. We usually \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / grow) any.
9. "How is your English?" "Not bad. It \_\_\_\_\_ (improve) slowly."
10. Matt is in San Francisco right now. He \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at the Pelton Hotel. He \_\_\_\_\_ (always / stay) there when he's in San Francisco.
11. Can we stop walking soon? I \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to feel tired.
12. "Do you know how to drive?" "I \_\_\_\_\_ (learn). My father \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me."
13. Usually I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) work at 5:00, but this week I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) until 6:00 to earn some extra money.
14. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Chicago. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (your parents / live)?
15. Erica \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for a place to live. She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) with her sister until she finds a place.
16. "What \_\_\_\_\_ (your father / do)?" "He's an architect, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not / work) at the moment."
17. The train is never late. It \_\_\_\_\_ (always / leave) on time.
18. Jim is very messy. He \_\_\_\_\_ (always / leave) his things all over the place.

### 3.3 Finish B's sentences. Use *always -ing* (see Section B).

1. A: I'm afraid I've lost my key again.  
B: Not again! You're always losing your key.
2. A: The car has broken down again.  
B: That car is a pain. It \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A: Look! You made the same mistake again.  
B: Oh no, not again! I \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A: Oh, I forgot my books again.  
B: That's typical! You \_\_\_\_\_.