



Present Simple vs Present Continuous — A1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- I ____ in a bank. (permanent job)
A) am working B) work C) working D) works
- I ____ from home this week because the office is closed.
A) work B) am working C) works D) worked
- She usually ____ to work by bus.
A) is going B) goes C) going D) go
- Look — it ____ outside!
A) snows B) is snowing C) snow D) does snow
- Water ____ at a hundred degrees.
A) is boiling B) boils C) boiling D) boil
- I ____ what you mean.
A) am not understanding B) don't understand C) not understand D) am not understand
- He ____ tennis every Saturday morning.
A) is playing B) plays C) playing D) play
- Be quiet — the baby ____.
A) sleeps B) is sleeping C) sleep D) does sleep
- Which sentence is correct?
A) I am wanting a coffee. B) I want a coffee. C) I am want a coffee. D) I wanting a coffee.
- They ____ in Madrid at the moment, but they live in Seville.
A) stay B) are staying C) stays D) staying

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

- My father _____ in a hospital. He has been there for years. (work)
- Be quiet — the children _____ upstairs. (sleep)
- She usually _____ to the gym after work. (go)

4. Look out of the window — it _____ ! (rain)
5. I _____ what you mean at all. (not understand)
6. The train _____ at seven every morning. (leave)
7. We _____ in a hotel while our flat is painted. (stay)
8. He _____ tennis every Saturday morning. (play)

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. the / a / in / in / I / city. / bank / work

Describe your permanent job.

2. I / week. / am / home / from / this / working

Describe a temporary arrangement.

3. usually / walks / to / school. / She

Describe a girl's normal routine.

4. Look, / is / snowing / outside! / it

Draw attention to the weather right now.

5. nine / The / every / at / shop / day. / opens

State a fixed opening time.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **B) work** — A permanent situation takes the present simple.
2. **B) am working** — This week signals a temporary arrangement, which takes the continuous.
3. **B) goes** — Usually signals a habit, so the present simple is correct.
4. **B) is snowing** — Something happening at this moment takes the present continuous.
5. **B) boils** — General and scientific truths take the present simple.
6. **B) don't understand** — Understand is a stative verb and stays in the simple even about right now.
7. **B) plays** — Every Saturday signals a repeated habit, so the simple is used.
8. **B) is sleeping** — An action in progress right now takes the continuous.
9. **B) I want a coffee.** — Want is stative and is not normally used in the continuous.
10. **B) are staying** — At the moment marks a temporary situation, so the continuous is used.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **works** — A permanent job takes the present simple, with the third-person -s.
2. **are sleeping** — An action in progress right now takes the present continuous.
3. **goes** — Usually signals a habit, so the simple is correct.
4. **is raining** — Something happening at this instant takes the continuous.
5. **don't understand** — Understand is stative and stays in the simple even about the present moment.
6. **leaves** — A fixed timetable takes the present simple.
7. **are staying** — A temporary arrangement takes the continuous.
8. **plays** — Every Saturday signals a habit, so the simple is used with the -s.

C. Sentence building

1. **I work in a bank in the city.**
2. **I am working from home this week.**
3. **She usually walks to school.**
4. **Look, it is snowing outside!**
5. **The shop opens at nine every day.**