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## Grammar – Tenses

### When to Use Present Simple and Present Continuous 1

- a) Study the information below about when to use *Present Simple* and *Present Continuous* tenses. Note that both tenses can be used in four different times: **General Time**, **Present**, **Past**, and **Future**.
- b) Match each sentence to one of the tenses and uses, e.g. 1. = PrS C. Write the code on the line.

When to use *Present Simple*:

PrS	Time:	Use:	Example:
A*	General Time	regular actions	I go to work every day.
B*	General Time	facts	Tokyo is the capital city of Japan.
C*	Present	state	I feel fine (at the moment).
D	Present	now – live commentary	Grant passes to Moore; Moore takes a shot; he scores!
E	Present	instructions	First you break two eggs, then you mix in the flour, and add milk.
F	Past	historic present 1 – slang story	So he says get out but I say no, I'm not going nowhere!
G	Past	historic present 2 – history	Napoleon leaves the chateau the next day and rides to Paris.
H*	Past	news headline	PM argues against road closures.
I*	Future	schedules	The train leaves at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning.
J*	Future	after <i>when, while, if, before</i> , etc.	I will talk to you when you get home.

\*most common uses

When to use *Present Continuous*:

PrC	Time:	Use:	Example:
A*	General Time	repeated actions	I'm always forgetting to take my lunch to work!
B*	General Time	after <i>when, while, if, before</i> , etc.	I love it when the sun is shining.
C*	Present	now – unfinished actions	Tina is walking to work (at the moment).
D*	Present	temporary situations	We're living in Berlin (at present).
E	Present	trends	Jogging is getting more popular these days.
F	Present	now – live commentary	They're sprinting up the track; getting closer; Thomas is leading...
G	Past	historic present 1 – slang story	I'm washing the car, right, and my kids are trying to help, but...
H	Past	historic present 2 – history	War is approaching and the United States is preparing for the worst.
I*	Future	arrangements (+ time phrase)	We're meeting our son's teacher on Monday.
J	Future	just about to start an action	We're going to bed. Goodnight.

\*most common uses

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|--|-------|
| 1. The weather is lovely today.  | PrS C |
| 2. Claire is running for the bus.  | _____ |
| 3. So my old man is rude to the bouncer and we are both chucked out of the club.       | _____ |
| 4. If you don't stop misbehaving there will be trouble!                                | _____ |
| 5. Barry visits his grandparents once a month.   | _____ |
| 6. Lucas is always messing around in class.  | _____ |
| 7. After that you put the tray into the oven and wait for fifteen minutes.             | _____ |
| 8. Don's just leaving.   | _____ |
| 9. Paul usually eats breakfast while he's reading the newspaper.                       | _____ |
| 10. Ferguson warns of new debt crisis.   | _____ |
| 11. I'm staying with an old friend for a few weeks.                                    | _____ |
| 12. Timms opens the plane door and steps out; he waves then begins his descent.        | _____ |
| 13. Look! Bob's coming, and he's bringing his mates; they're all running...!           | _____ |
| 14. We're sitting in the garden, minding our own business, and a fox appears.          | _____ |
| 15. We start tomorrow at 9am.  | _____ |
| 16. Unemployment is rising and Thatcher is briefing her cabinet at Number Ten.         | _____ |
| 17. Motor vehicles cause most of the carbon monoxide poisoning in the U.S.             | _____ |
| 18. It's becoming much harder for young people to get on the housing ladder, isn't it? | _____ |
| 19. Hugh is having a drink with Emily tomorrow evening.                                | _____ |
| 20. Washington is elected Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army on June 15, 1775. | _____ |

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*Answers:*

1. PrS C
2. PrC C
3. PrS F
4. PrS J
5. PrS A
6. PrC A
7. PrS E
8. PrC J
9. PrC B
10. PrS H
11. PrC D
12. PrS D
13. PrC F
14. PrC G
15. PrS I
16. PrC H
17. PrS B
18. PrC E
19. PrC I
20. PrS G