

## Grammar – Tenses

### When to Use Present Simple and Present Continuous 2

- 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. = PrC J. 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. We're going to the park now.  | PrC J |
| 2. There are fifty-two weeks in a year.  | _____ |
| 3. Suddenly – it's startin' to rain and everybody's packin' away their picnic things.        | _____ |
| 4. King Alfred is doing everything in his power to defeat the Viking hordes.                 | _____ |
| 5. You click on the 'Contact' link, open the web page, then type your comment in the box.    | _____ |
| 6. Girls are learning faster than boys, according to new research.                           | _____ |
| 7. Peter plays tennis every Friday.  | _____ |
| 8. So Barbara asks John to dance, but he says no, and then walks off in the other direction. | _____ |
| 9. Hammond's car is now passing his teammate, who is trying his best not to let him through. | _____ |
| 10. I'm getting ready.   | _____ |
| 11. The dancers join hands; they step forward; they bow; they thank the audience.            | _____ |
| 12. The water is nice and warm.  | _____ |
| 13. You can have a cake when they're ready.  | _____ |
| 14. I'm working with Corey on a new project at the moment.                                   | _____ |
| 15. It's hard to concentrate while the builders are making such a noise.                     | _____ |
| 16. The Rainhill Trials are a huge success and Stevenson's Rocket wins a place in history.   | _____ |
| 17. Wilkins aims for Cup Final glory.  | _____ |
| 18. They're always telling me to work harder.  | _____ |
| 19. The first bus leaves at 6:42 in the morning.   | _____ |
| 20. The inspectors are coming in to see us next Tuesday.                                     | _____ |

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*Answers:*

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