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## Grammar – Tenses

### When to Use Present Simple and Present Continuous – Writing Activity

- 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**.
- Write one sentence to demonstrate each use.

When to use *Present Simple* (\*most common uses)

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.

When to use *Present Continuous* (\*most common uses)

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.

- PrS A \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS B \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS C \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS D \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS E \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS F \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS G \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS H \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS I \_\_\_\_\_
- PrS J \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC A \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC B \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC C \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC D \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC E \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC F \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC G \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC H \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC I \_\_\_\_\_
- PrC J \_\_\_\_\_