Present continuous and present simple

Explanations

**Present continuous**  
To talk about things happening at the moment, use the present continuous.

*Jim is watching television at the moment.*

**Present simple**  
To talk about habits and routines use the present simple.

- Things we do often, every day, every week, etc.
- Things that always happen.

*I arrive at school at 8.30.*
*The first lesson starts at 8.45.*
*The lesson finishes at 9.30.*

**Careful!**

*Joe lives in New York. New York is his home. He lives there all the time.*
*We are living near the station at the moment. We want to move to another house soon.*

- Verbs usually used with the present simple:
  - **cost**  
    - *This bike costs £200.*
  - **like**  
    - *Anna likes rap music.*
  - **know**  
    - *Do you know the answer?*
  - **understand**  
    - *I don’t understand this.*
  - **believe**  
    - *Do you believe me?*

- Some verbs have one meaning in the simple form, but a different meaning in the continuous form.

  *Do you have a bike? = Do you own a bike?*  
  *I’m having a great time! = It’s a great party!*  
  *I think this film is great! = I like this film a lot.*  
  *Quiet! I’m thinking.* = I’m doing a difficult exercise.
Practice

1. Choose the most suitable sentence or question.
   a) 1 I wash my hair.
       2 I’m washing my hair. ✔
   b) 1 Do you know the answer?
       2 Are you knowing the answer?
   c) 1 Do you wait for the school bus? You’re in the wrong place!
       2 Are you waiting for the school bus? You’re in the wrong place!
   d) 1 That bike costs £350.
       2 That bike is costing £350.
   e) 1 Do you understand?
       2 Are you understanding?
   f) 1 I do my homework.
       2 I’m doing my homework.

2. Complete each sentence. Use the words in brackets. Use present simple or present continuous.
   a) Richard (always, get up) .......................................................... before 7.00.
      always gets up
   b) Hurry up! The bus (wait) .......................................................... for us!
   c) Where (we, go) .......................................................... ? This is the wrong road!
   d) My friends (not believe) .......................................................... my story.
   e) Please be quiet! I (read) .......................................................... a very interesting book.
   f) (like, Susan) .......................................................... horror films?

3. Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each space.
   a) ‘Someone .......... for you outside.’ ‘Who is it?’
      A) waits B) is waiting C) waiting
   b) ‘What .......... of this book?’ ‘I think it’s fantastic!’
      A) do you think B) is you think C) you do think
   c) .......... in ghosts?
      A) Are you believe B) Are you believing C) Do you believe
   d) Kate is busy. She .......... for a test.
      A) is study B) is studying C) is studies
   e) .......... a great time at the moment!
      A) We are have B) We’re have C) We’re having
   f) Tina usually .......... at 7.00.
      A) get up B) is getting up C) gets up

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1 Correct each sentence or question.
   a) I doesn’t like this film. .............................................................
   b) What do you want? .............................................................
   c) Jim walks sometimes to school. .............................................................
   d) When the lesson begins? .............................................................
   e) I don’t get up early on Saturdays. .............................................................
   f) Tina doesn’t like computer games. .............................................................
   g) Figen watches television every night. .............................................................

don’t like

2 Put one word in each space. Contractions are one word.
   a) What do you usually eat for lunch? ..................
   b) George and Terry speak Portuguese. They speak English.
   c) It’s 9.30 and the children sitting at their desks.
   d) Ken likes tea. In fact, he hates it.
   e) When it rains, take an umbrella?
   f) What does it say on the board? I can’t see from here.

do

3 Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each space.
   a) What time to bed?
      A) usually do you go     B) do usually you go     C) do you usually go
   b) Every day, Frank to work.
      A) goes     B) is going     C) go
   c) Stop it! it!
      A) I’m not liking     B) I don’t like     C) I not like
   d) What? Is it an orange?
      A) you are eating     B) are you eating     C) do you eat
   e) Yumiko feels ill, so she basketball.
      A) doesn’t play     B) isn’t play     C) isn’t playing
   f) Pay attention, Philip!?
      A) Do you listen     B) Is it listening     C) Are you listening
   g) Excuse me. to Manchester?
      A) This road goes     B) Does this road go     C) Is this road go
4 Change each sentence. Use the words in brackets.
   a) Jo goes to school by bus. (usually)  
      \textit{Jo usually goes to school by bus.}
   b) I’m working hard. (not)
   c) Sara likes sport. (not)
   d) I get up at 6.30. (always)
   e) We speak German. (not)
   f) Pierre goes to the beach. (often)
   g) George drinks beer. (never)
   h) We’re having a good time. (not)

5 Present simple or present continuous? Change the verb if it is wrong.
   a) Are you having a motorbike?  
      \textit{Do you have a motorbike?}
   b) I’m staying in a hotel near the sea.
   c) I’d like to buy this coat. How much is it costing?
   d) What you doing?
   e) I’m usually getting up at 6.00.
   f) This book is difficult. I’m not understanding it.
   g) I watch a lot of TV every night.
   h) Excuse me. Are you knowing the way to the museum?

Think about grammar! Are the sentences true or false?
   a) When you talk about a habit or a routine, you use the present simple.
   b) The present continuous is for actions that do not finish.
   c) When the subject of the sentence is \textit{he, she or it}, add -s or -es.