

LEARNING ENGLISH: THE FIRST STEPS

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Learning English – The First Steps

Part Eleven: Verbs - Present Simple and Continuous

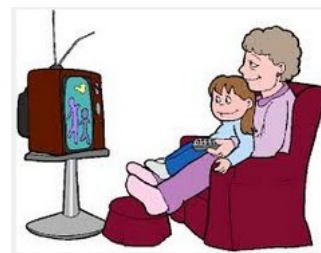
Present Simple – Regular actions

- I **drink** coffee every morning.
- We **go** to church on Sundays.
- They **watch** TV in the evenings.



The “**he/she/it**” forms always end with “**s**” or “**es**”:

- He **drinks** coffee every morning.
- She **goes** to church on Sundays.
- He **watches** TV in the evenings.
- It **rains** in São Paulo very much.



Also used for “**emotion**” verbs:

- I **love** chocolate. / He **loves** chocolate.
- We **like** books very much. / She **likes** books very much.
- They **hate** school tests. / He **hates** school tests.

Present Continuous – Current actions (now)

(Form: **am/is/are + ing**)

- We **are studying** English.
- She **is reading** a book.
- Where is John? He **is sleeping**.
- Look! They **are dancing**!
- What **are you doing**? I **am washing** my clothes.
- Wow, look! It **is snowing**.



Notes:

1. Never used for “*emotion*” verbs.

2. If the verb ends with “*e*”, replace with “*ing*” (dance → dancing)

Positive, Negative and Question:

	Present Simple	Present Continuous
Positive:	I drink coffee every day. He drinks coffee every day.	I am drinking coffee. He is drinking coffee.
Negative:	I don't drink coffee every day. He doesn't drink coffee every day.	I am not drinking coffee. He isn't drinking coffee.
Question:	Do you drink coffee every day? Does he drink coffee every day? Why do you drink coffee every day? Why does he drink coffee every day?	Are you drinking coffee? Is he drinking coffee? Why are you drinking coffee? Why is he drinking coffee?

Exercise 11a. Complete using Present Simple or Present Continuous.

1. Every Monday, Sally _____ (take) her kids to school.
2. What is Susan doing? She _____ (watch) TV.
3. It _____ (rain) today.
4. I _____ (hate) to live in São Paulo because it _____ (rain) a lot!
5. At the moment, Justin _____ (read) a book about Brazil.
6. Coffee? No thanks, I _____ (drink) a cup at the moment.
7. I _____ (go) to the gym twice a week.
8. I _____ (love) to go to the cinema. I always _____ (cry).
9. Bobby _____ (try) to do his homework now.
10. Every day, Roger _____ (drive) to work.

Exercise 11b. Negatives.

1. Usually, William _____ (not eat) lunch.
2. We _____ (not go) to work today, because it is a national holiday.
3. My daughter _____ (not feel) well today, so she _____ (rest).
4. I _____ (not like) Christmas, so I always _____ (stay) home alone.
5. At the moment, Susan _____ (not feel) very well.

Exercise 11c. Questions.

1. Sue: Hi Mary! What _____ (you do) at the moment?
Mary: I _____ (watch) TV.
2. Why _____ Mike always _____ (talk) with his ex-girlfriend on the phone?
3. Why _____ your parents never _____ (go) out?
4. Does John always _____ (drink) coffee in the morning?
5. What _____ (you watch) on TV at the moment?