

Grammar

The present tense predominantly describes a current event or state of being. However, somewhat unusually, the present tense can also be used to describe past and future events. The present tense is categorised further depending on whether the action is in progress or completed. The four present tenses are:

Simple Present – it is used:

a. to describe facts and habits.

I like chocolate.

b. to describe scheduled events in the future.

The meeting ends at 5 o'clock.

c. to tell stories to make your listener or reader feel more engaged with the story.

Present Continuous – it is used for an on-going action in the present.

I am reading a book now.

Present Perfect Simple – it is used to describe actions that began in the past and are still continuing into the present.

I have read this book.

Present Perfect Continuous – it is used for:

a. a continuous activity that began in the past and continues into the present.

I have been to Istanbul once.

b. a continuous activity that began in past but has now finished (usually very recently).

I have been working here for 5 years.

Worksheet 1

A. Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple:

1. Please, be quiet! I (try) to talk on the phone.
2. Hurry up! The train (come). I (not/want) to miss it.
3. Sara is a vegetarian. She (not/eat) meat.
4. Mrs. Smith (teach) French and Italian, and (learn) Japanese.
5. What (you/do) there? I (water) the flowers.
6. I (not/watch) so you can (turn) it off.
7. The Turkish Airlines flight to Istanbul (leave) at 13:45 and (arrive) at 15:45.
8. Her cousin (work) in a supermarket.
9. Look! It (rain).
10. You can't see John now. He (talk) with his boss.

B. Fill in the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. Who (make) that horrible noise? It is Tom. He (cough).
2. Mara (spend) this weekend in Leicester. She (go) there twice a month. Her grandmother (live) there.

3. Margaret, who to on the phone? (talk)
4. The Sun (rise) in the East and (set) in the West.
5. Nora (learn) languages very fast. She (speak) English, French, Spanish and Turkish. At the moment she (have) problems with Chinese.
6. I usually (eat) my breakfast at 8:30 in the morning.
7. Sam (live) in Nottingham for the past 10 years.
8. I'm so sorry for being late. How long (wait) for me here, darling?
9. The waiting room is full of people. Some (read) the newspaper, some (talk) on the phone, some (look) out of the window.
10. I (bake) a cake for my brother's birthday.

YOUR COMMENTS/NOTES:

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