

# Shaw Academy

LESSON 2 NOTES

[English for Beginners]



# Present Tenses

## Present Simple

### Form

[VERB] + s/es in third person

Examples:

- You **speak** English.
- **Do** you **speak** English?
- You **do not speak** English.

### Repeated Actions

Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

Examples:

- I **play** tennis.
- She **does not play** tennis.
- **Does** he **play** tennis?
- The train **leaves** every morning at 8 AM.

### Facts or Generalisations

The Simple Present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Examples:

- Cats **like** milk.
- Birds **do not like** milk.
- **Do** pigs **like** milk?
- California **is** in America.
- California **is not** in the United Kingdom.

## Present Continuous

### Form

[am/is/are + present participle]

Examples:

- You **are watching** TV.
- **Are you watching** TV?
- You **are not watching** TV.

### Now

Use the Present Continuous with Normal Verbs to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.

Examples:

- You **are learning** English now.
- You **are not swimming** now.
- **Are you sleeping?**
- I **am sitting**.
- I **am not standing**.
- **Is he sitting or standing?**
- They **are reading** their books.

### Longer Actions in Progress Now

In English, "now" can mean: this second, today, this month, this year, this century, and so on. Sometimes, we use the Present Continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second.

Examples: (All of these sentences can be said while eating dinner in a restaurant.)

- I **am studying** to become a doctor.
- I **am not studying** to become a dentist.
- I **am reading** the book *Tom Sawyer*.
- I **am not reading** any books right now.

## Frequencies

We use some adverbs to describe how frequently we do an activity.

These are called adverbs of frequency and include:

Frequency	Adverb of Frequency	Example Sentence
100%	always	I <b>always</b> go to bed before 11pm.
90%	usually	I <b>usually</b> have cereal for breakfast.
80%	normally / generally	I <b>normally</b> go to the gym.
70%	often* / frequently	I <b>often</b> surf the internet.
50%	sometimes	I <b>sometimes</b> forget my wife's birthday.
30%	occasionally	I <b>occasionally</b> eat junk food.
10%	seldom	I <b>seldom</b> read the newspaper.
5%	hardly ever / rarely	I <b>hardly ever</b> drink alcohol.
0%	never	I <b>never</b> swim in the sea.

\*\* Some people pronounce the 'T' in often but many others do not.

## Stative and Active Verbs

Some verbs are only used in simple tenses, and are not used in continuous tenses. An example of a simple tense is the present simple. An example of a continuous tense is the present continuous. These verbs are called stative, or state verbs. A verb which isn't stative is called an active or dynamic verb, and is usually an action. Often stative verbs are about liking or disliking something, or about a mental state, not about an action.

Below is a list of the most common stative verbs:

Verb	Correct	Not Correct
Agree	She didn't agree with us.	She wasn't agreeing with us.
Appear	It appears to be raining.	It is appearing to be raining.
Believe	I don't believe the news.	I am not believing the news.
Belong	This book belonged to my grandfather.	This book was belonging to my grandfather.
Concern	This concerns you.	This is concerning you.
Contain	This box contains a cake.	This box is containing a cake.
Depend	It depends on the weather.	It's depending on the weather.
Deserve	He deserves to pass the exam.	He is deserving to pass the exam.
Disagree	I disagree with you.	I am disagreeing with you.
Dislike	I dislike mushrooms.	I am disliking mushrooms.
Feel ( <i>have an opinion</i> )	I don't feel that this is a good idea.	I am not feeling that this is a good idea.
Hate	Julie hates dogs.	Julie is hating dogs.
Hear	Do you hear music?	Are you hearing music?
Imagine	I imagine you must be tired.	I am imagining you must be tired.
Know	I know a lot of teachers.	I am knowing a lot of teachers.
Like	I like reading.	I am liking reading.
Love	I love chocolate.	I am loving chocolate.
Need	I need to get a taxi.	I am needing to get a taxi.
Own	She owns two cars.	She is owning two cars.
Promise	I promise to help you tomorrow.	I am promising to help you tomorrow.
Recognise	I didn't recognise my old friend.	I wasn't recognising my old friend.

Verb	Correct	Not Correct
Remember	I don't remember.	I am not remembering.
Sound	Your idea sounds great.	Your idea is sounding great.
Surprise	The noise surprised me.	The noise is surprising me.
Understand	I don't understand.	I am not understanding.
Want	I want to go to the shop.	I am wanting to go to the shop.
Weigh (to have weight)	I weigh 85kg.	I am weighing 85kg.
Wish	I wish I had hair.	I'm wishing I had hair.

## Passive Constructions

We use the passive voice when we want to emphasise the **object or recipient** of an active sentence. The **recipient** (*receiver of the action*) then becomes the **subject** of the passive sentence.

\*The original **subject or agent** does not need to be included.

### Active Sentence

- George Bush started the war.
- The people grow rice in Asia.
- I heated the chemicals to 200 Celsius.

### Passive Sentence

- The war was started by George Bush.
- Rice is grown in Asia.
- The chemicals were heated to 200 Celsius.

### Form

Recipient + verb 'to be' + past participle (V3)

\*\***Past participles** are the same as the past tense for regular verbs (+ed).

\*\*\*Many verbs have **irregular** past participles which follow no rules **must be learned**.

THANK YOU

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