

Present Simple or Present continuous?

present Simple	It's used for individual actions or habitual actions in the present.	root verb with no changes or additions
Present continuous	to show an action happening right now or in the near future	[am/is/are] + [present participle]

How to use them

For the present simple, add *s* or *es* for *he, she* and *it*. For the negative, use *don't* for *I, you, we* and *they*, and *doesn't* for *he, she* and *it*.

*I **watch** cartoons every day. I **don't watch** the news.*
*My dad **makes** dinner every evening. He **doesn't make** lunch.*

For the present continuous, use *am, is* or *are* and *ing*. For the negative, use *not*.

*I'm **going** to the park now. I'm **not going** to school.*
*She's **studying** English now. She **isn't studying** maths.*

For present simple questions, use *do* for *I, you, we* and *they* and *does* for *he, she* and *it*. For present continuous questions, change the order of *am, is* or *are* and the person.

*What time **do you wake** up every morning?*
***Does she walk** to school every day?*
***Are you doing** your homework now?*
*What **is he doing** right now?*

Present Simple	Present Continuous
Things which are always true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water boils at 100 degrees. 	Things which are happening at the moment of speaking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water is boiling now, so you can put in the pasta.
Permanent situations (or nearly permanent; true for a few years at least): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie lives in London. 	Temporary situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie is living in Paris for a few months (usually she lives in London). Situations which are slowly changing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm getting better and better at speaking English.
Habits or things we do regularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I drink coffee every morning. 	Temporary or new habits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm drinking too much coffee these days because I'm so busy at work. Annoying habits (usually with 'always'): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My flatmate is always leaving the kitchen in a mess!
Future events which are part of a timetable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My plane leaves at eight tonight. To talk about the future after certain words ('when' 'until' 'after' 'before' 'as soon as'): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'll call you when I get home. 	Definite future plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm meeting John after class today.
To talk about what happens in books, plays and films: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of the book, the detective catches the killer. 	To talk about people in pictures and photos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this photo, my mother is walking beside a lake.