

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

Teacher's Notes

Level: Intermediate

In this Present Simple vs Present Continuous activity, students learn the differences between the Present Simple and the Present Continuous, then practise using them both alone and with a partner.

Aim: To teach students the differences between the Present Simple and Present Continuous tenses.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students start by completing the sentences about the uses of the Present Simple and Present Continuous by writing 'PS' for Present Simple and 'PC' for Present Continuous.

answer key:

1. PS 2. PC 3. PS 4. PC 5. PC 6. PS 7. PS / PC

Exercise B: Next, students match the beginnings of the sentences with the correct endings.

answer key

1. b 2. g 3. j 4. f 5. c 6. i 7. h 8. d 9. e 10. a

Exercise C: Students then read the passage and circle the correct form of the verb.

answer key

1. go	6. love
2. am staying	7. is
3. have	8. am carrying
4. are walking	9. are meeting
5. do	10. am

Exercise D: After this, students read the sentences containing mistakes and rewrite them correctly.

answer key

1. I'm making myself a coffee right now. Do you want one?
2. What does he do? He is a nurse.
3. Jerry is on a diet. He is trying to lose weight
4. Sam doesn't like tea. He drinks coffee instead.
5. I'm going to the shop in a minute. Are you coming?

Exercise E: Finally, students complete sentences, by choosing one of the verbs and putting it in either the Present Simple or Present Continuous form. They then add a word, time or number of their own in the second space in each sentence, guessing what their partner's answer will be. Afterwards, the pairs share their answers and see how many of their guesses were correct.

1. goes off	6. are wearing
2. are going	7. drink
3. are thinking	8. are looking forward
4. eat	9. are
5. is	10. are feeling