

SECOND EDITION

**Grammar
and
Vocabulary**
for
Cambridge First

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For students preparing for the
Cambridge English First exam

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Grammar

1_a

Present simple and present continuous

Present simple	Present continuous
<p>Form</p> <p>Affirmative: <i>They live in Cambridge.</i></p> <p>Question: <i>Does he live in Brighton?</i></p> <p>Negative: <i>I don't live in London.</i></p>	<p>Affirmative: <i>She's waiting for Keith.</i></p> <p>Question: <i>Are they having a good time?</i></p> <p>Negative: <i>I'm not talking to you!</i></p>
<p>Use</p> <p>We use the present simple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for permanent situations. <i>I live in a flat.</i> <i>She works for an insurance company.</i> • for repeated actions or habits: <i>I use my mobile phone every day.</i> <i>We usually have dinner at eight.</i> • for general truths: <i>The sun rises in the east.</i> <i>Water boils at 100°C.</i> • when we tell stories or summarise the plot of a film or book: <i>Our hero goes off to search for the treasure, which he eventually finds after many adventures.</i> 	<p>We use the present continuous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for temporary situations: <i>I'm staying with a friend at the moment.</i> • for situations that are changing: <i>The weather's getting hotter and hotter.</i> • for actions in progress at the moment of speaking: <i>I'm using John's mobile because I left mine at home.</i> <i>You're eating too fast!</i> • for annoying habits, often with <i>always</i>: <i>You're always borrowing money!</i>

- When we use *always* with the present simple, it means 'all the time' or 'every time':
I always complain if the service is bad in restaurants.
- When we use *always* with the present continuous, it means 'too often'. We use it to show that we find something annoying.
You're always complaining that waiters are rude!

State verbs

- We do not normally use certain verbs with the present continuous, or other continuous tenses. These verbs describe a state, not an activity. They are called state verbs and they include:
 - mental/thinking verbs: *agree, believe, disagree, doubt, expect, forget, imagine, know, notice, realise, remember, suppose, think, understand*

- attitude verbs: *dislike, hate, like, love, need, prefer, want, wish*
- sense/perception verbs: *hear, see, smell, taste*
- appearance, qualities: *appear, look, resemble, seem, sound*
- existence, being, possession: *be, belong to, come (from), exist, have, lack, own, possess*
- other verbs: *consist of, contain, cost, depend, fit, include, matter, mean, need, owe, suit, weigh*
- We can use some state verbs with continuous tenses but with a change in meaning. Here are some examples:

Present simple	Present continuous
He is friendly. (= It's one of his qualities/ characteristics.)	He is being friendly. (= behaving in a particular way)
She has (got) a car. (= owns)	She's having dinner. (= eating)
They think it's too expensive. (= believe)	They're thinking of buying a car. (= considering)
She looks sad. (= seems)	She's looking at you. (= turned her eyes in a particular direction)
He feels what we did was wrong. (= thinks)	He's feeling the baby's forehead. (= touching)
Do you see what I mean? (= understand)	I'm seeing Alex on Friday. (= meeting)
This juice tastes good. (= has a particular taste)	He's tasting the milk to see if it's OK. (= putting it in his mouth to check its quality)
It depends on the weather. (= The weather may change the situation.)	I'm depending on you. (= relying on)
She appears to be very upset. (= seems)	The Blues Band is appearing at the Odeon on Saturday. (= performing)

- We can use the verbs *feel*, *look*, *ache* and *hurt* in the simple or the present continuous form, with no change in meaning:

I **feel**/m **feeling** sick.

You **look**/**re** **looking** tired.

My feet **ache**/**are** **aching**.

My leg **hurts**/**is** **hurting**.

PRACTICE

1 Choose the correct answer.

- We **rarely see** / 're **rarely seeing** each other now.
- I **sleep** / 'm **sleeping** on Nick's sofa until I find a place of my own.
- I **only work** / 'm **only working** there for a couple of months – I'm going abroad in the summer.
- If you **don't listen** / **aren't listening** to the radio, why don't you switch it off?
- His only bad habit is that he **talks** / **is talking** too loudly.
- So, in the first scene, we **see** / **are seeing** him getting up. Then he **goes out** / **is going out** and **meets** / **is meeting** a strange woman.
- You **make** / **are making** goulash with meat, vegetables and paprika.
- I never do anything I **feel** / 'm **feeling** is against my principles.
- He **appears** / 's **appearing** to be very friendly but I don't know him very well.
- There's nobody at the door. You **just hear** / 're **just hearing** things.
- So, what **do you think** / **are you thinking**? Is it a good idea?

2 Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 Diane's father owns (own) that restaurant over there.
- 1 My sister (wait) patiently for her exam results.
- 2 We (not travel) by train very often.
- 3 I (consider) accepting that job offer in Cambridge.
- 4 The film (end) with a dramatic car chase.
- 5 I'm sorry, I (feel) too tired to go out this evening.
- 6 We (have) a great time here in London.
- 7 (you / see) much of your brother these days?
- 8 We (rely on) you to bring the keys with you.
- 9 I'm really sorry; I (wish) I could help you.
- 10 Who (you / think) you are, speaking to me like that!

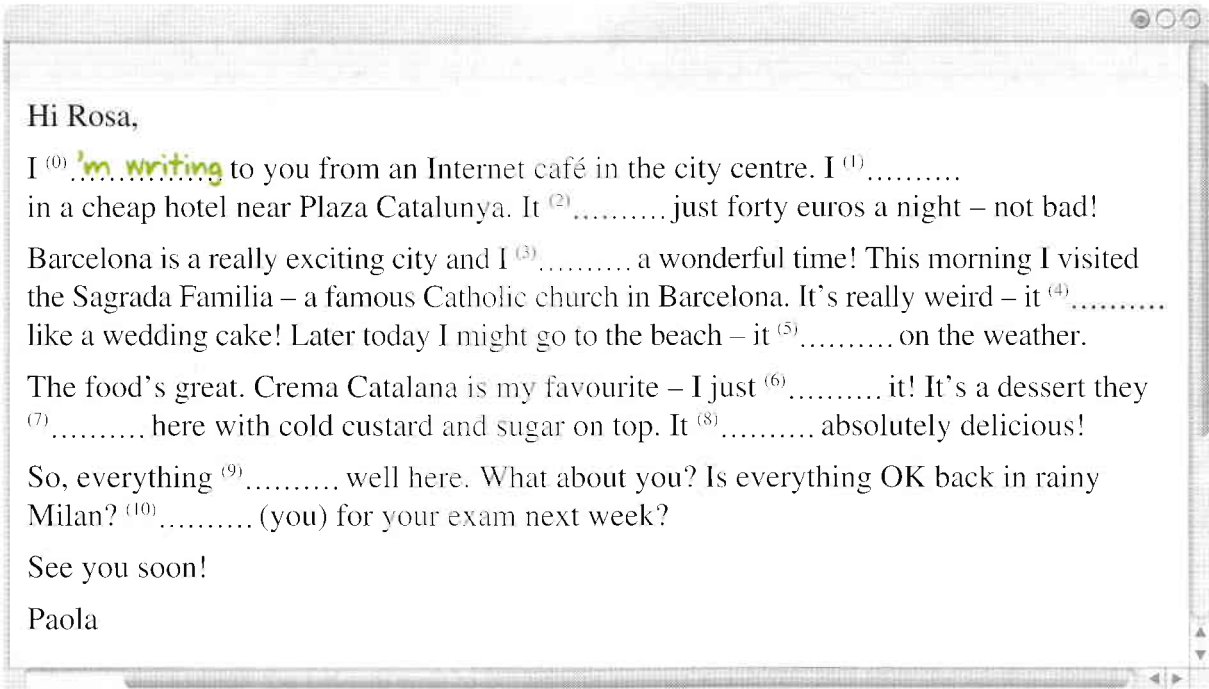
3 Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 We always visit (visit / always) my grandparents at weekends but Aunt Roberta never comes (come / never) with us.
- 1 I (use / never) my mobile phone if I (drive).
- 2 I (get) lots of emails every day but I (seem / never) to have the time to reply!
- 3 The heroine (prefer) to be with Paul because James (argue / always).
- 4 Maria (forget / always) what time the soap (start).
- 5 You (moan / always) about the state of the flat but you (help / never) me tidy it up!
- 6 She (criticise / always) people! That's why she (not have) any friends!
- 7 Whether he (go out) or not (depend / always) on how busy he is.
- 8 I (shop / never) here – they (be / always) so rude!
- 9 We (smell / always) food cooking when we (pass) her house.
- 10 He (borrow / always) money! And he (pay / never) me back!



4 Complete the email. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in the box.

cost depend go have look love make stay still / study taste write



5 Find and correct the mistakes in the sentences.

- 0 It's usually getting very cold here in the winter.
It usually gets very cold here in the winter.
- 1 This week, the government holds a conference on nuclear energy.

- 2 Water is consisting of hydrogen and oxygen.

- 3 Things are get more and more expensive all the time. It really makes me angry!

- 4 I've got nowhere to live, so I stay with a friend for now.

- 5 Is this car belonging to you, sir?

- 6 You always moaning! Stop it!

- 7 In the novel, the story is taking place in Florence.
