

Present Simple and Present Continuous

I can use the Present Simple and Present Continuous to talk about present actions.

1 Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the girl's job? *She is a receptionist.*
 2 What are the hotel staff doing today? *They are organising an arts festival.*



Every summer I work as a receptionist in the local hotel. I like it. It's usually quiet and I don't have a lot of work. When guests **arrive**, I **give** them their keys. At 11.00, I always **have** coffee and a cake.

But this summer everything's different. Our town **is organising** an arts festival. 100 people are staying at the hotel. Today we're preparing for a big party! At the moment, the waiters **are bringing** more tables and the manager **is telling** me to do three different jobs. I hate it when it is like this! No coffee for me today!

2 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. Then complete the examples with the words in blue in the text.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Present Simple and Present Continuous

You use the **Present Simple** to talk about facts, habits and routines.

When guests ¹**arrive**, I ²**give** them their keys.

At 11.00, I always ³**have** coffee and a cake.

Time expressions you use with the Present Simple: *always, usually, every day/morning/summer, on Saturdays, etc.*

You use the **Present Continuous**:

- to talk about activities at the moment of speaking.

The waiters ⁴**are bringing** more tables. The manager ⁵**is telling** me to do three different jobs.

- to talk about temporary actions.

Our town ⁶**is organising** an arts festival. (this summer)

Time expressions you use with the Present Continuous: *at the moment, now, right now, today, this month, this summer, etc.*

REMEMBER THIS

We don't use these verbs in the Present Continuous:

believe, hate, know, like, love, mean, need, prefer, understand, want.

3 Complete the sentences with the Present Simple or Present Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I **work** (work) as a mechanic for SuperCars.
 2 Jane **'s working** (work) as a waitress in a café this summer.
 3 Please don't talk to me now. I **'m finishing** (finish) an email.
 4 I **finish** (finish) work at five.
 5 We **go** (go) to the cinema on Saturdays, but today we **'re going** (go) to the theatre.

4 Complete Emily's email with the Present Simple or Present Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi Freddie,

Guess where I am. At the moment, I **'m looking** (look) at the Atlantic!

I've got a holiday job as an au pair with a Spanish family. They're on holiday in Vigo just now and I **'m looking** (look) after the children.

I usually ³**play** (play) with the kids, but at the moment they ⁴**'re sleeping** (sleep). It's their *siesta*. I usually ⁵**relax** (relax) too, but today I ⁶**'m writing** (write) to you.

My 'working' day ⁷**starts** (start) early. I ⁸**take** (take) the children for a swim. They ⁹**love** (love) the water! After dinner, I ¹⁰**read** (read) stories to them. It's so quiet now. The sun ¹¹**'s shining** (shine) and life ¹²**'s** (be) perfect! I ¹³**believe** (believe) I've got the best job in the world!

What about you? How's your holiday job going?

Love,

Emily

5 Write sentences that are true for you. Use the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

- 1 I / do / a lot of sports
I do/don't do a lot of sports.
 2 I / learn / to play a musical instrument / at the moment
 3 my best friend / live / near me
 4 my parents / work / in a big company
 5 we / go / on holiday abroad / every year
 6 my English teacher / talk / at the moment

6 Focus on you Write questions for the sentences in Exercise 5. Then ask and answer in pairs.

- A: *Do you do a lot of sports?*
 B: *Yes, I do./No, I don't.*

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Grammar in Focus video 3.2

Speaking



Describing a photo

I can describe the people in a photo and say what they are doing.

- 1 Look at photo A and answer the questions. Then compare your answers in pairs.
- Who is in the photo? *Two mechanics are in the photo*
 - Where are they? *They are in a workshop*
 - What are they doing? *They are repairing a car.*

- 2 073 Listen to a student describing photo A. Compare his answers with yours.

- 3 073 Listen again and tick the questions the student answers.

- What are the people wearing? ☐
- How old are they? ☒
- Are they working alone or in a team? ☒
- Is the work hard? *Yes, it is* ☒
- How are they feeling? *Tired* ☒
- What are they thinking? ☐
- Do you think they like their job? *Yes, they do* ☒

- 4 073 Read the SPEAKING FOCUS. Then listen again and underline the phrases you hear.

SPEAKING FOCUS

Who? Where? What are they doing?

The photo shows (a person/people) in a (place).

In the photo there is/there are (a person/people) in a (place).

He/She is .../They are ... + -ing

Details of the picture

On the left/right ...

In the background ...

We can also see ...

He's/She's wearing ...

What you think

Perhaps/Maybe ...

I think he/she is .../they are ...



REMEMBER THIS

You use the **Present Continuous** to say what people are doing in a photo.

- 5 Work in pairs. Student A, describe photo B. Student B, describe photo C. Follow the instructions below and use the phrases in the SPEAKING FOCUS.

- Say who is in the photo and where they are.
- Say what the people are doing.
- Try to say more. Use some of the questions in Exercise 3 to help you.

- 6 **Focus on you** Would you like to do the job in your photo? Why?/Why not?

No, I wouldn't. I think it isn't the write job for me.

FOCUS NOW

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- 1 I don't do a lot of sports
- 2 I'm not learning to play a musical instrument at the moment.
- 3 My best friend doesn't live near me.
- 4 My parents don't work in a big company.
- 5 We don't go on holiday abroad every year.
- 6 My English teacher is talking at the moment.

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- A Do you do a lot of sport?
- B No, I don't.
- A Are you learning to play a musical instrument?
- B No, I'm not.
- A Does your best friend live near you?
- B No, she doesn't.
- A Do your parents work in a big company?
- B No, they don't.
- A Do you go on holiday abroad every year?
- B No, we don't.
- A Is your English teacher talking at the moment?
- B Yes, she is.

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In the photo A there are two mechanics. They are in a workshop. They are repairing a car. The mechanic in the front is wearing a T-shirt and a ^{salopette} dungarees. The mechanic behind is wearing a pair of jeans and an ^{grembiule} apron. The mechanic in the front is younger than the mechanic behind. They are making a hard work and they're working in a team. I think they are tired, but they like their job.