



Part 1 – Fill in the blanks

Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks using the simple present tense.

1. Hannah **works** (work) for the government.
2. I **think** (think) that healthcare should be free.
3. Lots of families **have** (have) more than one car.
4. The sun **is** (be) a star.
5. Birds **use** (use) their wings to fly.
6. The baby **loves** (love) to play peek-a-boo.
7. The school **has** (have) a new playground.
8. The teacher **treats** (treat) all of the students fairly.

Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks using the present continuous tense.

1. I **am enjoying** (enjoy) working with you.
2. The women **are having** (have) a wonderful meal.
3. Our doctors and nurses **are working** (work) too hard.
4. I **am travelling** (travel) by car.
5. Jack **is training** (train) to be a teacher.
6. The crowds of people **are making** (make) a lot of noise.
7. The crowd **is making** (make) a lot of noise.
8. The dog **is being** (be) very well behaved well.
9. I **am expecting** (expect) the parcel to arrive at noon.



Exercise 3

Look at these sentences. Can you tell which ones are written in simple present tense, and which ones are written in the present continuous?

Write a 'P' for simple present, or a 'C' for present continuous. The first one has been done for you.

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|--|---|
| 1. I am getting very cold. | C |
| 2. The children are playing nicely. | C |
| 3. Squirrels collect nuts for the winter. | P |
| 4. Susan is receiving a medal for bravery. | C |
| 5. Wilson gets pocket money once a week. | P |
| 6. Countries near the Equator are very hot. | P |
| 7. The public are getting angry with the government. | C |
| 8. 'Just a minute! I am getting dressed!' | C |
| 9. Babies need a lot of care. | P |
| 10. She is looking for a new job. | C |



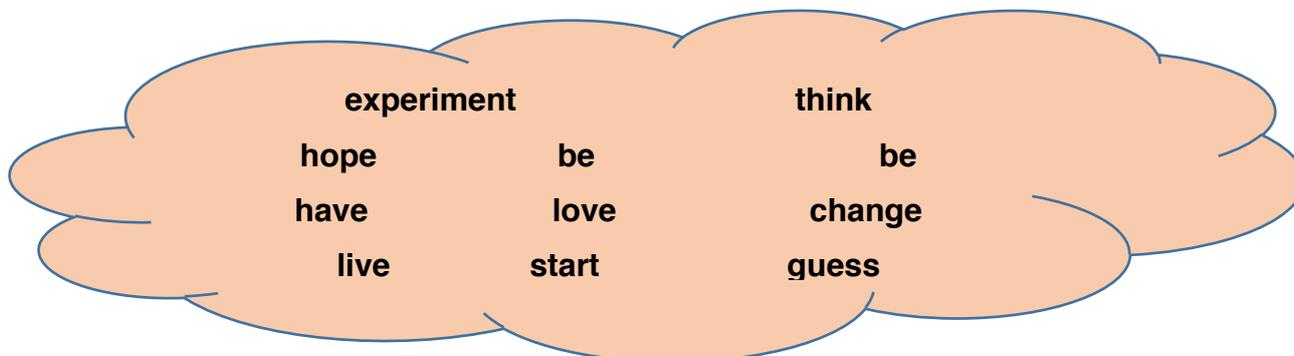
Exercise 4 – Fill in the blanks by choosing whether to use the simple present or present continuous tense.

1. I **love** (love) chocolate.
2. He **is going** (go) on holiday next week.
3. The boy **is trying** (try) to improve his piano playing.
4. My mum **turns** (turn) 40 today!
5. The teachers **arrive** (arrive) at school early every day.
6. I **am growing** (grow) taller every year.
7. It **is** (be) cruel to hunt animals.
8. Cats **are** (be) my favourite animal.
9. She **is finding** (find) new ways to keep fit.
10. I **brush** (brush) my teeth every morning.
11. Cameron **is beginning** (begin) to feel at home in his new school.
12. The man **sounds** (sound) very angry with his son.
13. Ketchup **tastes** (taste) good with chips.
14. I **think** (think) that horse-racing should be banned.
15. Mum **is going** (go) to college so that she can get a new job.
16. The dog **barks** (bark) when the postman comes.
17. The headteacher **is trying** (try) to improve behaviour in the school.



Part 2 - Passages

Exercise 5 - Here is a passage which uses both the simple present and the present continuous. Fill in the missing blanks by choosing the correct answer from the bubble below.



My name 1) is Heather. I 2) am 13 years old and I 3) live with my parents and my two brothers. I 4) have blue eyes and blonde hair, although I 5) am experimenting with different hair colours at the moment so my hair usually 6) changes colour every few weeks!

I 7) am hoping to be a hairdresser when I grow up so it is important for me to practice new styles. Although I 8) love dark hair, I 9) am starting to realise that my skin tone is best suited to lighter shades.

I 10) am guessing that your natural hair colour is dark brown because I can see some dark roots on the top of your head. I 11) think that some red highlights would suit your character, especially as you 12) are a very dramatic and fun person.



Exercise 6 - Here is Saskia's diary. Every week, she does the same jobs to help her parents. However, this week is a special week so she has some extra things to do. Use her diary to help you fill in the blanks, using either the simple present or the present continuous tense.

 **Remember that the present continuous tense is used for actions which are happening at the moment of speaking/writing.**

On Mondays, Saskia 1) empties (empty) the bin and 2) puts (put) it outside to be collected. She also 3) pays (pay) the milkman when he brings the milk for the week ahead.

On Tuesdays, Saskia 4) goes (go) to her piano lesson. She also 5) brings (bring) the bin back inside.

Every Wednesday, Saskia 6) does (do) the gardening in the morning, and then, in the afternoon, she 7) walks (walk) the dog.

This week is a special week as Saskia 8) is celebrating (celebrate) New Year with her family. She 9) is baking (bake) lots of puddings for the New Year's party, including chocolate cake and apple pie. As well as all this, Saskia 10) is hoping (hope) to fit in some shopping in the Christmas sales. She 11) is planning (plan) to buy a new coat and some new boots for the rest of the winter season.

december 2012 / january 2013

this week

* Celebrate New Year with family! * ☺

- Shopping in Christmas sales
- Baking for New Year's party

31 monday

- Empty the bin
- Put the bin out
- Pay the milkman

1 tuesday

- Piano lesson
- Bring bin inside

2 wednesday

- Do gardening
- Walk dog



Exercise 7 - Jessica writes a letter to her friend Simone during the Christmas holidays. Fill in the blanks with either the simple present or the present continuous tense.

Dear Simone,

This year, I 1) **am spending** (spend) Christmas and New Year with my Dad's family. So far, we 2) **are having** (have) a wonderful time! We all 3) **enjoy** (enjoy) spending time together and we 4) **get** (get) on very well so being here 5) **is** (be) a lot of fun.

Now that our exams are over and the holidays are here, I 6) **am feeling** (feel) much more relaxed and happy. Exams 7) **are** (be) important, of course, but I 8) **are starting** (start) to realise that family 9) **matters** (matter) most. Spending time with loved ones is certainly the thing that 10) **makes** (make) me happiest.

While we are here, I 11) **am sharing** (share) a bedroom with my cousin Sophie who I 12) **love** (love). It 13) **is** (be) quite squashed as the room is very small, but we 14) **are having** (have) lots of fun! I 15) **am going** (go) to miss Sophie when we go home. We 16) **have** (have) a lot in common and get on really well but we 17) **do not** (not do) get to see each other very often as our families 18) **live** (live) far apart.

I 19) **hope** (hope) that you and your family are having a great holiday too!
See you soon!

Jessica xxx



Part 3 - Proofreading

Exercise 8 - Here are some sentences using the simple present and simple continuous tense.

Give a ✓ if they are correct, or write a correction for the underlined word if it is wrong.

Watch out for trick questions!

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Jack is <u>learn</u> to play the saxophone. | learning |
| 2. Fareed <u>think</u> that boys are better than girls. | thinks |
| 3. Sabrina <u>are</u> getting a new bike for her birthday. | is |
| 4. Everyone <u>is having</u> a wonderful time! | ✓ |
| 5. They are <u>begun</u> to realise that smoking is unhealthy. | beginning |
| 6. Stephanie <u>having</u> a big bedroom. | has |
| 7. Children are <u>spent</u> less time with their parents. | spending |
| 8. I <u>am</u> starting to see what you mean. | ✓ |
| 9. Exams <u>is</u> difficult for some people. | are |
| 10. Teresa is <u>wait</u> to see how things turn out. | waiting |
| 11. People <u>thinking</u> that the shop is expensive. | think |
| 12. The new album <u>are</u> going down well with fans. | is |
| 13. I <u>suppose</u> I agree with you. | ✓ |
| 14. I am <u>sensed</u> there is a problem. | sensing |
| 15. Eating fast food is <u>badding</u> for you. | bad |
| 16. The <u>girl</u> are running towards me. | girls |
| 17. At the moment, I <u>couldn't</u> do it. | cannot |
| 18. This is <u>become</u> a pattern. | becoming |
| 19. He <u>thinking</u> about it for a second. | thinks |
| 20. The <u>women</u> is getting tired. | are |