



Part 1 – Fill in the blanks

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

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

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

1. I _____ (enjoy) working with you.
2. The women _____ (have) a wonderful meal.
3. Our doctors and nurses _____ (work) too hard.
4. I _____ (travel) by car.
5. Jack _____ (train) to be a teacher.
6. The crowds of people _____ (make) a lot of noise.
7. The crowd _____ (make) a lot of noise.
8. The dog _____ (be) very well behaved well.
9. I _____ (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.

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



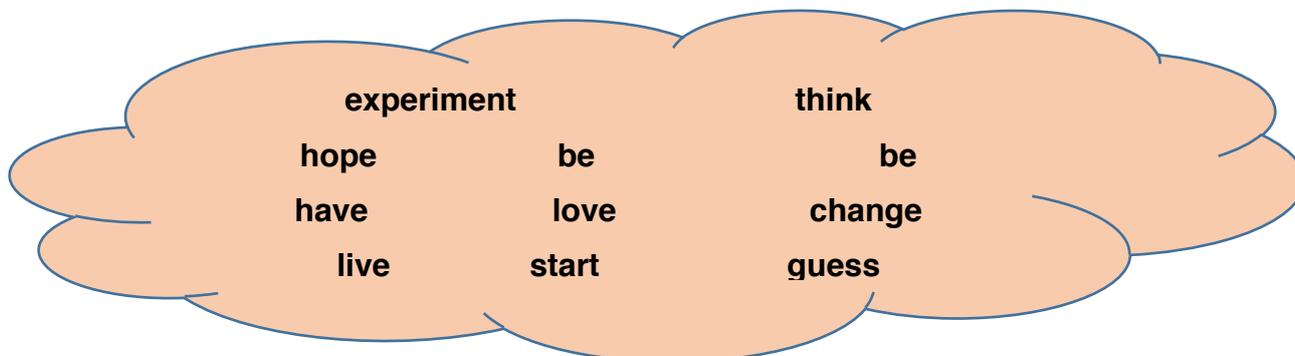
Exercise 4 – Fill in the blanks by choosing whether to use the simple present or present continuous tense.

1. I _____ (love) chocolate.
2. He _____ (go) on holiday next week.
3. The boy _____ (try) to improve his piano playing.
4. My mum _____ (turn) 40 today!
5. The teachers _____ (arrive) at school early every day.
6. I _____ (grow) taller every year.
7. It _____ (be) cruel to hunt animals.
8. Cats _____ (be) my favourite animal.
9. She _____ (find) new ways to keep fit.
10. I _____ (brush) my teeth every morning.
11. Cameron _____ (begin) to feel at home in his new school.
12. The man _____ (sound) very angry with his son.
13. Ketchup _____ (taste) good with chips.
14. I _____ (think) that horse-racing should be banned.
15. Mum _____ (go) to college so that she can get a new job.
16. The dog _____ (bark) when the postman comes.
17. The headteacher _____ (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) _____ Heather. I 2) _____ 13 years old and I 3) _____ with my parents and my two brothers. I 4) _____ blue eyes and blonde hair, although I 5) _____ with different hair colours at the moment so my hair usually 6) _____ colour every few weeks!

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

I 10) _____ that your natural hair colour is dark brown because I can see some dark roots on the top of your head. I 11) _____ that some red highlights would suit your character, especially as you 12) _____ 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) _____
(empty) the bin and 2) _____ (put) it
outside to be collected. She also
3) _____ (pay) the milkman when he
brings the milk for the week ahead.

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

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

This week is a special week as Saskia 8) _____ (celebrate) New Year with her family. She
9) _____ (bake) lots of puddings for the New Year's party, including chocolate cake and
apple pie. As well as all this, Saskia 10) _____ (hope) to fit in some shopping in the
Christmas sales. She 11) _____ (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) _____ (spend) Christmas and New Year with my Dad's family. So far, we 2) _____ (have) a wonderful time! We all 3) _____ (enjoy) spending time together and we 4) _____ (get) on very well so being here 5) _____ (be) a lot of fun.

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

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

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