

Present simple and present continuous

The two present tenses: what is always true against what is happening now.

Fill each gap with one of the words below it. Answers and the rule for every sentence are on the next page.

1. My sister _____ in a bank.

a works b is working c work d working

2. Look, it _____ outside.

a rains b is raining c rain d rained

3. We usually _____ dinner at eight.

a are having b having c have d has

4. Be quiet, the baby _____.

a sleeps b sleep c is sleep d is sleeping

5. Water _____ at one hundred degrees.

a boils b is boiling c boil d boiled

6. I cannot talk now, I _____ to work.

a drive b am driving c drives d driving

7. He _____ coffee. He prefers tea.

a is not drinking b not drink c does not drink d do not drink

8. _____ you often work on Saturdays?

a Are b Is c Does d Do

Answer key

1. My sister **works** in a bank.

Present simple for a job: it is true every day, not only now.

2. Look, it **is raining** outside.

Present continuous for something happening at this moment.

3. We usually **have** dinner at eight.

Present simple with usually, always and never: how often something happens.

4. Be quiet, the baby **is sleeping**.

Present continuous for right now, even when the verb is normally a habit.

5. Water **boils** at one hundred degrees.

Present simple for a fact that is always true.

6. I cannot talk now, I **am driving** to work.

Present continuous for this moment, often with now or at the moment.

7. He **does not drink** coffee. He prefers tea.

Present simple negative uses do not or does not for a habit.

8. **Do** you often work on Saturdays?

Present simple questions start with do or does, not with be.