

AIMS OF THE CLASS

- Present Simple vs. Present Continuous
- Case study writing – *a sample*



‘Money **talks** they **say**; all it ever said to me was
“Goodbye.”’

Cary Grant, a British-American actor

‘When you **are courting** a nice girl an hour **seems**
like a second. When you **sit** on a red-hot cinder, a
second **seems** like an hour. That's relativity.’

Albert Einstein



WHICH PRESENT TENSE?

	SIMPLE PRESENT	PRESENT PROGRESSIVE
+	<i>I/you/we/they work he/she/it works</i>	<i>I am, you are etc working</i>
?	<i>do I/you/we/they work? does he/she/it work?</i>	<i>am I, are you etc working?</i>
-	<i>I/you/we/they do not work he/she/it does not work</i>	<i>I am not, you are not etc working</i>

- things that are **always true**
- things that happen **all the time, repeatedly, often, sometimes, never** etc.

*You **live** in North London, don't you?
No thanks. I **don't smoke**.
Chetford Castle **stands** on a high hill.
Alice **works** for an insurance company.
What **do** frogs **eat**?
I **play** tennis every Wednesday.
The sun **rises** in the east.*

- things that are happening **now**
- things that are happening **around now**

*My sister's **living** with me just now.
Look – Ann's **smoking** a cigar.
Why **is** that girl **standing** on the table?
Phil's **not working** at the moment.
Hurry up! We're **waiting** for you.
'What **are** you **doing**?' 'I'm **writing** letters.'
Why **are** you **crying**? What's wrong?*



PRESENT TENSES Oxford English Grammar Course Intermediate

GRAMMAR SUMMARY

SIMPLE PRESENT: *I work, she works, he doesn't work etc*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE: *I am working, she is working, he isn't working etc*

English has two 'present' tenses.

- We use the **simple present** mostly to talk about things that are always true, and things that happen repeatedly.
Dogs eat meat. My aunt lives in Leeds. I don't work on Saturdays.
- We can use the **simple present** in commentaries, instructions, stories and jokes, to describe events that happen **one after another**.
Smith passes to Peters, Peters passes to Ollis, Ollis shoots – and it's a goal!
First you break three eggs into a bowl. You add butter, salt and pepper. Then you take a fork ...
This man goes into a pub, and he says to the barman ...
- We use the **present progressive** (or 'present continuous') to talk about things that are happening just around the time when we speak.
Look! The dog's eating your shoe. I'm working hard these days.
- We use the **present progressive** to talk about changes that are happening.
Prices are going up. Transport is getting worse.
- We can also use the **present progressive** to talk about the future (see pages 27, 30).
I'm seeing Lucy tomorrow.



PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Focus

Read the example sentences and match them with descriptions a–d.

- 1 Our company **uses** LinkedIn.
- 2 I **spend** most of my time in the office in front of a computer.
- 3 We're currently **improving** the site.
- 4 In marketing these days, smartphone users **are becoming** more and more important.

- a a habit or routine ____
- b a trend ____
- c an activity in progress or temporary situation ____
- d a fact ____

Match the descriptions a–d with the correct tense.

Present Simple ____ ____ Present Continuous ____ ____



GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: THINGS TO READ

2 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: things to read

Look at the pictures and numbers, and write sentences with *often* and *now*.

Use a dictionary if necessary.

▶ (2, 1) She *often reads newspapers, but now she's reading a short story.*

▶ (3,4) She *often reads magazines, but now she's reading a biography.*

1 (5,9) He

2 (8,10) She

3 (1,7) He

4 (4,2) I

5 (2,6) They

6 (3,5) He



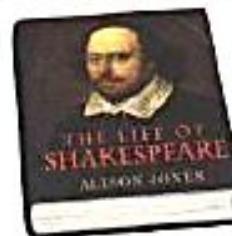
1 short stories



2 newspaper



3 magazine



4 biography



5 poems



6 notice



7 cookery book



8 comic



9 autobiography



10 grammar



Here are some exchanges from an interview between an American journalist and a French film star. Can you complete them with the correct tenses?

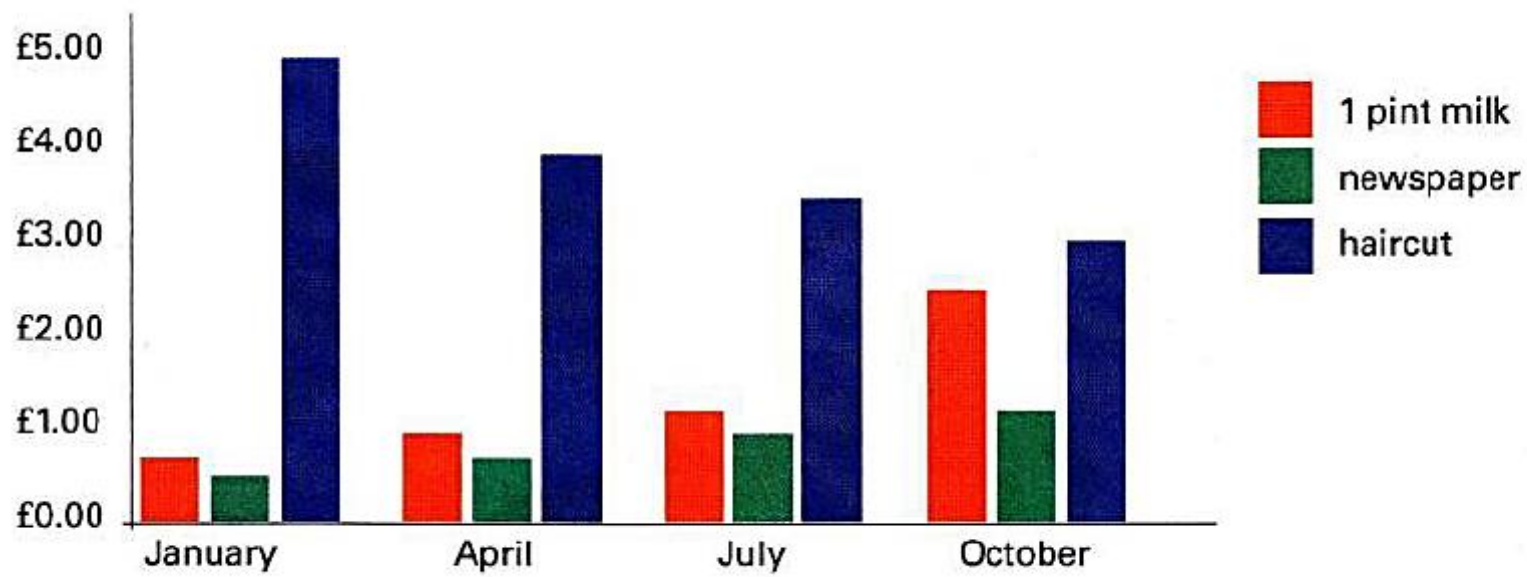
- 1 'How do you start work on a film?' 'I the script and notes.' (*read; make*)
- 2 'I notes of our interview. I hope you don't mind.' 'No, that's OK.' (*make*)
- 3 'What languages?' 'English, French and Spanish.' (*you speak*)
- 4 'I'm glad we this interview in English. My French isn't very good.' (*do*)
- 5 'Who that guitar?' 'My son, when he has time.' (*play*)
- 6 'Who the piano upstairs?' 'My sister. She's got a concert tomorrow.' (*play*)
- 7 'What?' 'I think it's a piece by Mozart.' (*she play*)
- 8 '..... anything else?' 'The violin. She's very musical.' (*she play*)
- 9 'Your daughter's very keen on sport, isn't she?' 'She tennis.' (*play*)
- 10 'Where is she now?' 'She tennis, as usual.' (*play*)
- 11 'What's that delicious smell?' 'My husband' (*cook*)
- 12 'Is that usual?' 'Yes, normally I and my husband' (*shop; cook*)
- 13 'What a lovely clock!' 'It , I'm afraid – it's been broken for years.' (*not work*)
- 14 'Could I use your phone?' 'I'm afraid it at the moment.' (*not work*)



PRESENT PROGRESSIVE FOR CHANGES

Look at the graph and say what is happening.

- 1 Milk.....
- 2 Newspapers.....
- 3 Haircuts.....



SIMPLE PRESENT: INSTRUCTIONS ETC. YOU TAKE THE FIRST LEFT

Look at the map and follow the directions.

When you come out of the station you turn right. Then you take the first left and keep straight on till you come to a T-junction. You turn right and keep straight on till you get to a crossroads, and then turn right again.

Where are you? At



Write similar directions: tell somebody how to get from the station to the Apollo Theatre.

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CONVENTIONS OF A FORMAL LETTER

197 Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 7AB
12th February 1999

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you because I saw your advert in an Orientation Center and I would like some more information.

At the moment I am a student in France but I will finish my studies this year. Following this, I would like to go to the United States to improve my English, since I want to work in tourism. In addition, I would like to learn about American history. Please could you let me know if it is possible to study this subject on request and what level of English is required?

I would also be grateful if you would tell me how many hours per week your courses are and, if I want to stay for three months, when I might start. You do not give exact prices so perhaps you could send me precise details of fees for the courses that I am interested in.

Finally I would appreciate it if you would send me further information about the type of accommodation available and whether it is included in the price.

I am looking forward to your response.

Yours faithfully
Carole Pointereau

Cambridge
First
Certificate
Writing



Thank you for your attention!

