

1. THE PRESENT SIMPLE

A: Use the present simple to talk about things in general:

For example: Doctors work in hospitals; Friday comes after Thursday; The moon goes around the earth.

B: Use 'do' in the present simple to make yes/no questions:

For example: Do you like cats? Does he live far away?

C: Use 'do' with 'not' in the present simple to make negative sentences:

For example: I don't like Mondays; She doesn't like dogs.

D: Use the present simple to talk about how often you do something:

For example: I go to the gym every day; I go on holiday every summer; I rest on Sundays.

E: Use the present simple in 'speech acts', meaning doing something by saying it:

For example: I refuse to believe this; I apologise for being late; I promise to be good.

2. THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

A: Use the present continuous to talk about actions occurring now:

For example: She is driving home from work; I am cooking dinner.

B: Use the present continuous for actions you have started but not yet stopped:

For example: I am studying at university; it's raining outside; I'm learning French.

C: Use the present continuous with today, this week, this year:

For example: I'm working hard today; my team is doing well this year.

D: Use the present continuous with recent changes:

For example: My English is getting better; the earth's climate is changing.

E: Use the present continuous, not the present simple, for incomplete actions:

For example: Ice freezes at 0 degrees celsius (not ice is freezing at 0 degrees celsius); the polar caps are melting (not the polar caps melt).

3. THE PRESENT PERFECT

A: Make the present perfect by adding the auxiliary verb 'have' with the past participle:

For example: I have visited Spain; Have you been to China?

B: Use the present perfect to present new information:

For example: I've broken my leg; I've lost my wallet.

C: Use the present perfect to talk about a past action which is important now:

For example: I've already eaten lunch; I've written my essay for tomorrow.

D: Use the present perfect when you use just, already and yet in the present:

For example: I've just finished my homework; I've already seen that film; I haven't eaten yet.

E: Be careful when using 'been' and 'gone':

For example: I've been to Italy (= I have travelled to Italy and returned back); I've gone to Italy (= I'm in Italy at the moment).

4. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Choose the correct option:

Do/does he live far away?

2. Complete the sentence using the verb 'go':

I _____ to the cinema every week.

3. Translate into your own language:

I'm working right now.

4. Choose the correct option:

It **gets cold/is getting cold** outside now.

5. Complete the sentence using the verb 'study':

Currently, she _____ for an MBA in France.

6. Translate into your own language:

My English is getting better.

7. Choose the correct option:

Have you been/did you go to Spain?

8. Complete the sentence using the verb 'eat':

I _____ (already eat) dinner today.

9. Choose the correct option:

I've never **been/gone** to Italy.

Answers: 1. Does 2. Go 4. is getting cold 5. is studying 7. Have you been 8. I have already 9. been