



Simple Present Vs. Present Continuous

What's the difference?

Simple Present

- Use the present simple to refer to facts and specific routines or habits, and with adverbs of frequency.



- *I walk to school every day.*
- *Jane likes to play soccer.*
- *We want to play baseball.*
- ***REMEMBER*** VERB + "S" OR "ES"

Simple Present

We usually use the present simple with state verbs such as *think, feel, believe, know, seem, appear, like, consist, have and belong*.

*E.g. Some **believe** that smiling is an individual act.*

but in some cases

*E.g. I **think** she is busy with her papers (an opinion).*

*I **am thinking** about buying a new flat (the process of thinking)*

Simple Present

We also often use the present simple to describe events shown in a picture, to make them seem more immediate and alive. For the same reason, we usually use the present simple in news headlines

*E.g. A bowler **smiles** at her friends.*

*E.g. And Fedorov **moves** the puck to Ovechkin - who scores on the powerplay!*

Simple Present

We also often use the present simple in some expressions *Here come(s)*
... and There go(es)....

E.g. There goes Mike, looking as cheerful as usual.

Simple Present

We use the present simple with verbs like *promise, agree, assure and demand*, which are used to perform the act they describe.

*E.g. I **promise** I won't be late. (I am using these words to make a promise.)*

Simple Present

We use the present simple to describe a permanent situation

*E.g. Tom **lives** in Rome. He works as a lawyer for a big Italian company.*

Simple Present

When we tell stories or to give instructions, we use the present simple to describe the shorter actions and the present continuous to describe the longer situations or background activity.

*E.g. First, you **fry** the onion in a little oil. While the **onion's cooking**, you **chop** the vegetables.*

Present Continuous

- Used to show that an action is happening now/around now



- *Ex. I am walking to school.*
- *Ex. They are swimming.*
- *Ex. I am eating ice-cream.*

REMEMBER AM/IS/ARE + VERB + "ING"

Present Continuous

- We can use the present continuous with indefinite adverbs of frequency (*e.g. always, constantly, forever*) to refer to regular behaviour which is typical, habitual and predictable.

E.g. Psychologists are forever arguing about Freud's theory.

- We can use PC to criticize or express disapproval.

E.g. Sally's always losing things. She should be more careful.

Present Continuous

We can use Present Continuous to express changes.

*E.g. The sky is grey. It is **getting** cold*

Present Continuous

We use Present Continuous to express a temporary situation.

*E.g. Paul is living in Rome at the moment.
She is working as an English teacher. (She is in Rome temporarily, e.g. for one year.)*

Present Simple and Continuous

When we tell stories or to give instructions, we use the present simple to describe the shorter actions and the present continuous to describe the longer situations or background activity.

*E.g. First, you **fry** the onion in a little oil. While the **onion's cooking**, you **chop** the vegetables.*