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# Present tenses

present simple; present continuous; state verbs

# 1

## A Context listening

- 1** You are going to hear a woman interviewing a student for a survey about what people do in their free time. Before you listen, look at the pictures. Which activities do you think the student does in his free time?



- 2** **1a** Listen and check if you were right.

- 3** **1a** Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false. If a statement is false, write the correction.

- 1 Peter is waiting for his friends. ....
- 2 He isn't studying much this month. ....
- 3 His parents own a shop. ....
- 4 He practises the guitar most mornings. ....
- 5 He frequently uses his phone to stay in touch with friends. ....
- 6 His cousin is living in Thailand at the moment. ....
- 7 Peter doesn't support any football teams. ....

- 4** Look at your answers to Exercise 3 and answer these questions.

- 1 Which sentences are about a situation that is permanent or a fact? .....
- 2 Which sentences are about everyday habits? .....
- 3 Which sentence is about an action happening at the moment of speaking? .....
- 4 Which sentences are about a temporary situation? .....

## B Grammar

### 1 Present simple

+	verb/verb + (e)s	<i>He <b>plays</b> tennis.</i>
-	do/does not + verb	<i>She <b>doesn't play</b> tennis.</i>
?	do/does ... + verb?	<i><b>Do you play</b> tennis?</i>

We use the present simple

- ♦ to talk about regular habits or repeated actions:

*I **get up** really early and **practise** for an hour or so **most days**.*

*I **use** my phone **just about every day**.*

Words that describe how often or when are often used (e.g. *always, generally, normally, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never, every day, every evening*).

- ♦ to talk about permanent situations:

*My parents **own** a restaurant.*

⚠ We use the present perfect, not the present simple, to say how long something has continued:

*I **have worked** there since I was 15. (~~not I work there since I was 15~~: see Unit 3)*

- ♦ to talk about facts or generally accepted truths:

*Students **don't generally have** much money.*

*If you heat water to 100°C, it **boils**. (see Unit 17)*

The following words are often used: *generally, mainly, normally, usually, traditionally*.

- ♦ to give instructions and directions:

*You **go** down to the traffic lights, then you **turn** left.*

*To start the program, first you **click** on the icon on the desktop.*

- ♦ to tell stories and talk about films, books and plays:

*In the film, the tea lady **falls** in love with the Prime Minister.*

### 2 Present continuous

+	am/is/are + verb + -ing	<i>He's <b>living</b> in Thailand.</i>
-	am/is/are not + verb + -ing	<i>I'm <b>not living</b> in Thailand.</i>
?	am/is/are ... + verb + -ing?	<i><b>Are they living</b> in Thailand?</i>

We use the present continuous

- ♦ to talk about temporary situations:

*I'm **studying** really hard for my exams.*

*My cousin **is living** in Thailand **at the moment**. (= he doesn't normally live there)*

Words like *at the moment, currently, now, this week/month/year* are often used.

- ♦ to talk about actions happening at the moment of speaking:

*I'm **waiting** for my friends.*