Action Verbs in Present Simple

Action verbs show what someone does.
(no -s with I, you, we, they / add -s with he, she, it)

He **writes** a lot.

She **runs** in the park.

He **eats** lunch.

She **reads** books.

He **listens** to music.

She **plays** outside.

The Verb Be in Present

The verb be (am, is, are) is used with places, adjectives, and descriptions.

Places
(where someone is)

He **is** at school.

She **is** at the beach.

He **is** in the city.

Adjectives
(how someone is)

She **is** happy.

He **is** kind.

She **is** tired.

Descriptions
(more about a person or thing)

He **is** tall and strong.

She **is** beautiful.

The dog **is** small and cute.

Action verbs = what they do. Be + place/adjective = where they are / how they are.

Don’t use BE + an action verb

In the Present Simple, we don’t use the verb be with an action verb.

✓ I **am** from Belarus.

(BE is used for states, identity, origin.)

✗ I **am come** from Belarus.

(Incorrect – don’t use BE with an action verb.)

✓ I **come** from Belarus.

(Use the main verb directly.)

✗ I **am come** from Belarus.

(Incorrect – don’t use BE with an action verb.)

✓ She **works** at a hospital.

(Use the main verb directly.)

✗ She **is work** at a hospital.

(Incorrect – don’t use BE with an action verb.)

Remember!

- Use BE (**am / is / are**) by itself for states, identity, origin, and descriptions (e.g., I **am** a student. / She **is** tall.).
- With an action verb in the Present Simple, use the main verb directly (e.g., I come. / He works.).

Singular vs. Plural

The verb changes depending on the subject.

Singular
(one)

A cat **drinks** milk.

He **works** in a store.

Plural
(more than one)

Cats **drink** milk.

They **work** in a store.

Remember!

He / She / It → verb + s
(e.g., drinks, works, lives)

I / You / We / They → base verb
(e.g., drink, work, live)

Write the questions:

Typical day — Present Simple

1. What time / usually / get up
2. What / usually / do / morning
3. Where / usually / have lunch
4. What / usually / do / after class
5. What / usually / do / evening

Today — Present Continuous

1. What / do / today
2. Where / go / after class
3. What / work on / today
4. What / do / this evening
5. Do / anything different / today

Check the questions:

Typical day — Present Simple

1. What time do you usually get up?
2. What **do you** usually do **in the** morning?
3. Where **do you** usually have lunch?
4. What **do you** usually do after class?
5. What **do you** usually do **in the** evening?

Today — Present Continuous

1. What **are you doing** today?
2. Where **are you going** after class?
3. What **are you working** on today?
4. What **are you doing** this evening?
5. **Are you doing** anything different today?

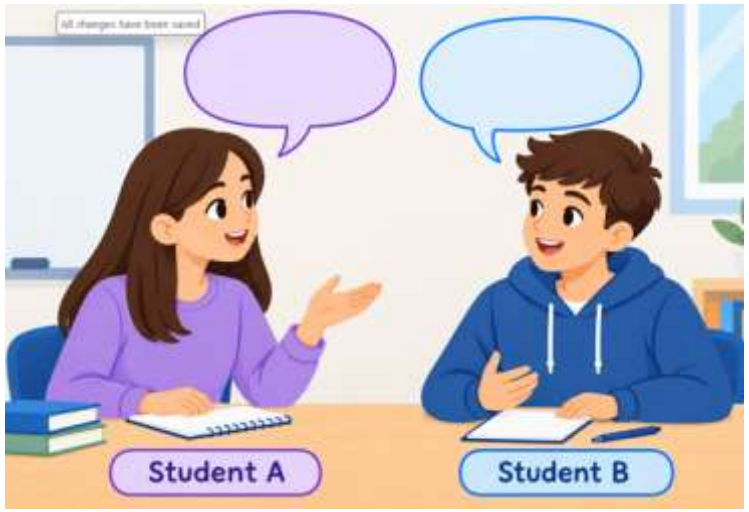
Discuss the questions. **Student A** and **Student B**:

Typical day — Present Simple

1. What time / usually / get up
2. What / usually / do / morning
3. Where / usually / have lunch
4. What / usually / do / after class
5. What / usually / do / evening

Today — Present Continuous

1. What / do / today
2. Where / go / after class
3. What / work on / today
4. What / do / this evening
5. Do / anything different / today



Student A asks Student B about Student C:

Typical day — Present Simple

1. What time / usually / get up
2. What / usually / do / morning
3. Where / usually / have lunch
4. What / usually / do / after class
5. What / usually / do / evening

Today — Present Continuous

1. What / do / today
2. Where / go / after class
3. What / work on / today
4. What / do / this evening
5. Do / anything different / today

do you
does he
does she

are you ...ing
is he ...ing
is she...ing

- What time does he/she usually get up?

He/She usually gets up at….

- What time do you usually get up?

I usually get up at ….

- What is he/she doing today?

He’s/ She’s ….ing …..today.

- What are you doing today?

I’m …ing today.

Present Simple vs. Present Continuous

English class examples

PRESENT SIMPLE

Habits & routines

I usually come to class at 9:00.

Repeated actions

Maria often asks questions in class.

Usual situations

James studies English at this school.

Facts

Students learn by practicing.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Happening now

I am talking to my partner right now.

Around now

Maria is working on a new project this week.

Temporary situations

James is studying English this semester.

Changing situations

My English is improving.

Look for the Clues

Words that often help you choose the tense

⍰ Present Simple

usually
always
often
sometimes
never
every day / every week

⍰ Present Continuous

now
right now
at the moment
today
this week
these days

EVERY DAY / USUALLY ↔ NOW / AROUND NOW

Students in Class

Compare the usual action with what is happening now

Present Simple	Present Continuous
Students usually arrive on time.	The students are arriving now.
Maria always sits near the front.	Maria is sitting near the window today.
James often asks questions.	James is asking a question right now.
We study English every Monday.	We are studying grammar today.
Anna usually takes notes.	Anna is taking notes right now.
Students work in pairs during class.	The students are working with a partner now.

Match the Sentence to Its Meaning

Choose A–F. Each meaning is used twice.

1. I usually come to class at 9:00.

2. Maria is talking to her partner right now.

3. We study English every week.

4. We are practicing pronunciation today.

5. Alex often asks questions.

6. Alex is asking the teacher a question now.

7. Maria usually sits in the back.

8. Maria is sitting in the front today.

A. Habit or routine

B. Happening right now

C. Usual situation

D. Temporary situation

E. Fact / general truth

F. Planned activity around now

Answer Key

Sentences + grammar notions

#	Sentence	Grammar meaning	Tense
1	I usually come to class at 9:00.	A — Habit or routine	Present Simple
2	Maria is talking to her partner right now.	B — Happening right now	Present Continuous
3	We study English every week.	A — Habit or routine	Present Simple
4	We are practicing pronunciation today.	D — Temporary situation	Present Continuous
5	Alex often asks questions.	A — Habit or routine	Present Simple
6	Alex is asking the teacher a question now.	B — Happening right now	Present Continuous
7	Maria usually sits in the back.	A — Habit or routine	Present Simple
8	Maria is sitting in the front today.	D — Temporary situation	Present Continuous

My Student Profile

My name is Maria Petrova.

I am originally from Ukraine, but I live in Chicago now. I work as a nurse at a local hospital.

I am learning English because I need to communicate with my coworkers and patients more easily. I also want to feel more comfortable speaking English in everyday situations and have more opportunities at work.

Ukrainian is my first language, and I also speak some Russian and English.

In my free time, I enjoy cooking, walking, and watching movies. I usually spend weekends with my family and friends.

I use Facebook and Instagram to keep in touch with people and see what my friends are doing. ☺

Name
Maria Petrova

Nationality
Ukrainian

Address
Chicago, USA

Occupation
Nurse

Reason for learning English
Work and everyday communication

Languages
Ukrainian, Russian, English

Interests
Cooking, walking, movies

Social media
Facebook, Instagram

You're Doing Great in Class!
Your effort, focus and positive attitude make a big difference!
You ask great questions!
You're active and involved!
Listen
Ask
Participate
Learn
Grow
You work hard!
You make progress every day!
You're kind and respectful!