



OHA Canada for English Language Learners

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PRESENT PERFECT & PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSES

Is the sentence Present Simple or Present Continuous?

THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE IS USED:

- To express habits, general truths, repeated actions
 - I do yoga (habit)
 - I work in a restaurant (unchanging situation)
 - Elephants are a large animal (general truth)
- To give instructions:
 - You drive for three blocks, then you enter the roundabout.
- To express fixed arrangements, present or future:
 - His interview starts at 10:00 a.m.

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS IS USED:

To describe an ongoing action that is happening now, either at the moment or in the immediate future.

- Something happening now, at this moment:
 - We are swimming now.
 - Are you working?
 - They are reading their books.
- In the process of doing a longer action which is ongoing; but possibly not at this exact moment.
 - I am studying to become a teacher
 - He is reading the book *Moby Dick*
 - Are you working on any special projects at school?
- To indicate that something will happen in the near future:
 - We are meeting his friends after work.
 - I am going to the movie tonight.
 - Is she visiting her grandparents next weekend?

ANSWERS

1. I am singing along with the radio. PC
2. We are shopping in this supermarket. PC
3. He has a big car. SP
4. I am quarrelling with you. PC
5. They nap in the afternoon. SP
6. They are playing hockey now. PC
7. He is going to the shoe store. PC
8. We are leaving for the airport tomorrow morning. PC
9. Cats don't like to swim. SP
10. He teaches math. SP
11. They go on holiday every summer. SP
12. I like coffee. SP
13. My mom is making pizza. PC
14. She uses a computer. SP
15. They speak. SP
16. The poet is writing a romantic poem. PC
17. It rains a lot in England. SP
18. She is drinking tea. PC
19. Are you listening to that rap song? PC
20. They study biology on Tuesdays. SP