

A2 TEENS · GRAMMAR · LESSON 03

Influencer Life

the real vs the fake

On Instagram, she **is having** her best life. In real life, she **has** a lot of problems. In this lesson, you will learn when to use **Present Simple** (habits, always true) and when to use **Present Continuous** (happening right now) — and why it matters.

🕒 45 min · ✓ CEFR A2 · ♦ Simple vs Continuous · ♦ Social Media

01 WARM-UP

Real life vs. your feed

Let's start with you...

Think about your social media and your real life. Answer these questions honestly!

- 01 How often do you post photos on social media? Every day? Every week? Never?
- 02 What are you doing on your phone at this exact moment (apart from this lesson)?
- 03 Do people on social media show their real lives, or a perfect version?
- 04 What is someone in your family doing right now? What do they usually do at this time?

02 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Same verb, two very different stories

The big contrast

The same verb can tell two different stories. One is about **life in general**. The other is about **this exact moment**.

Present Simple

· LIFE IN GENERAL ·

- Habits and routines (things you do regularly)
- Facts and things that are always true
- Likes, dislikes, opinions (with stative verbs)

**Maya *drinks* coffee every morning.
The sun *rises* in the east.**

Present Continuous

· THIS EXACT MOMENT ·

- Actions happening right now, as you speak
- Temporary situations (this week, these days)
- Changes and trends happening around now

**Look! Maya *is drinking* coffee.
The weather *is getting* colder this week.**

Time words — your best friends

Certain words tell you which tense to use. Learn them well!

→ PRESENT SIMPLE WORDS

**always · usually · often · sometimes ·
never · every day · every week · on
Mondays · twice a week**

→ PRESENT CONTINUOUS WORDS

**now · right now · at the moment ·
today · this week · these days ·
Look! · Listen! · currently**

The stative verbs trap

Some verbs are about feelings, thoughts, and senses — not actions. We usually use them in the Present Simple, even when we mean "right now".

♥ Stative verbs — always Present Simple

These verbs describe a **state**, not an action. They stay in the Simple form:

love · hate · like · want · need · know · believe · understand · see · hear · smell · remember

- ✓ I **love** this song right now.
- ✗ ~~I am loving this song right now.~~
- ✓ She **wants** a new phone.
- ✗ ~~She is wanting a new phone.~~

03

KEY VOCABULARY

Words for the online world

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
influencer noun	a person who posts online and many people follow them	<i>The influencer has 2 million followers.</i>
follower noun	a person who follows someone's social media	<i>I'm a follower of three travel bloggers.</i>
post verb/noun	to put something online, or the thing you put online	<i>She posts a new photo every day.</i>
scroll verb	to move your finger on a phone screen up or down	<i>I always scroll through my feed on the bus.</i>
filter noun	an app effect that changes how a photo looks	<i>That photo has a strong filter.</i>
fake adjective	not real, not true	<i>Those smiles look fake.</i>
honest adjective	telling the truth, not hiding things	<i>I appreciate honest influencers more.</i>
pretend verb	to act like something is true when it isn't	<i>She's pretending to enjoy her breakfast.</i>
reality noun	real life, the way things really are	<i>The reality is very different from the photos.</i>
content noun	photos, videos, or posts online	<i>He creates funny content every week.</i>

04

READING

Three influencers, six truths

UNFILTERED · ISSUE 03

Influencer Life

the feed vs. the truth

Three stars, six scenes — what they show, and what is really happening

On social media, everyone's life looks perfect. But what happens when the camera is off? Three young influencers show us both sides of their day.

Meet Anya, 22, @anyalovesmornings. She posts beautiful "morning routine" videos. Her followers love her peaceful mornings.

ON THE FEED

The perfect morning

Anya **wakes up** at 6 a.m. every day. She **drinks** green tea, **does** yoga, and **writes** in her journal. She **eats** a beautiful breakfast with fruits and flowers. Her feed says: "Start your day like me!"

RIGHT NOW

The truth at 6:15 a.m.

Right now, Anya **is holding** her camera with one hand. She **isn't drinking** the tea — it's cold. She **is pretending** to smile. Her dog **is eating** the flowers from the plate. She **is crying** a little because she didn't sleep well.

Next: Diego, 19, @diegotraveltheworld. Every week, he posts photos from a different country. His feed is full of adventure.

ON THE FEED

The free traveller

Diego **travels** every month. He **swims** in blue oceans, **climbs** mountains, and **eats** street food. His caption says: "I **live** for adventure!" He **has** 400,000 followers.

RIGHT NOW

The truth in Bangkok

Right now, Diego **is sitting** in a cheap hotel room. He **is working** on his laptop for 10 hours a day. He **isn't swimming**. He **is answering** messages from brands. He **is eating** instant noodles. The beach photo? It's from last year.

Finally: Maya, 17, @mayastudywithme. She's a student influencer. Her fans scroll through her study videos to feel motivated.

ON THE FEED

The perfect student

Maya **studies** for six hours every day. She **writes** perfect notes in three colours. She **reads** a book every week. She **says**: "Hard work always wins!" Her desk is always clean.

RIGHT NOW

The truth at midnight

Right now, Maya **is watching** videos of cats. She **isn't reading** her book. She **is eating** crisps in bed. Her notes? She **is copying** them from her friend tomorrow. She **feels** tired and **wants** to sleep, but she has a test.

The lesson: The reality is different from the feed. When we talk about **routines** and **habits**, we use *Present Simple*. When we talk about **this exact moment**, we use *Present Continuous*. Both tenses are honest — if we use them correctly!

05

PRACTICE

Simple or Continuous? You decide.

★ Read each sentence. Look at the hint tag (HABIT / NOW / STATIVE VERB). Circle the correct option below.

1 Anya _____ at 6 a.m. every single day. HABIT
 is waking up wakes up wake up

2 Look! Diego _____ messages from brands right now. NOW
 answers is answering answer

3 Maya _____ her new phone. STATIVE VERB
 is loving loves love

4 We usually _____ videos after school. USUALLY
 are watching watches watch

5 Shh! I _____ to record a video. NOW
 try am trying am try

6 My brother _____ his real photos online. NEVER
 is never posting never posts never post

7 These days, more people _____ content online. THESE DAYS
 create creates are creating

8 _____ any honest influencers? STATIVE VERB
 Are you knowing Do you know Do you knows

06 **SPEAKING**
The feed vs. the truth

Pick a person — real or imaginary

Work with a partner. Choose a famous person, a made-up influencer, or even a family member. Describe both their "feed" (usually, always, every day) and their "real life right now".

- ▶ On their feed: What do they usually post? What do they do every day?
- ▶ Right now: What are they doing at this exact moment?
- ▶ Are they pretending? What is true and what is fake?
- ▶ What do they love? What do they hate? (Remember: stative verbs!)
- ▶ Are you a fan? Why or why not?

EXAMPLE CONVERSATION

- A:** My person is @fitlife_emma. She posts workout videos every morning at 7 a.m.
B: Cool! What is she doing right now, in your imagination?
A: Right now she is eating pizza and watching Netflix.
B: Ha! So is her feed fake?
A: A little. She really likes fitness, but she also loves pizza. It's normal.

07 **WRITING**
Invent your own influencer

Write two short paragraphs (80-100 words total)

Invent an influencer. Give them a name and a niche (fitness, food, travel, study...). Paragraph 1: describe their **feed life** (Present Simple). Paragraph 2: describe their **real life right now** (Present Continuous).

- a name + niche for your influencer (e.g. @pabloeats, food blogger)
- paragraph 1: at least 3 Present Simple verbs (every day, usually, always...)
- paragraph 2: at least 3 Present Continuous verbs (right now, at the moment...)
- at least one stative verb (loves, hates, wants, believes...)

Paragraph 1 — On the feed:

Paragraph 2 — Right now:

Blank writing area with horizontal lines and a vertical margin line on the left.

08

QUIZ

Check your understanding

Circle the correct answer. Check your answers at the end.

1. Which is CORRECT?

- A. I am loving this song!
- B. I love this song!
- C. I loving this song!
- D. I loves this song!

2. Choose the correct sentence for a HABIT:

- A. Maya is posting every Sunday.
- B. Maya post every Sunday.
- C. Maya posts every Sunday.
- D. Maya posting every Sunday.

3. Listen! Someone ____ at the door.

- A. knocks
- B. is knocking
- C. knock
- D. are knocking

4. Which sentence is WRONG?

- A. She is eating breakfast now.
- B. She eats breakfast every day.
- C. She is wanting a new bike.
- D. She is studying this week.

5. Diego usually ____ to a new country every month.

- A. travels
- B. is travelling
- C. travel
- D. are travelling

6. These days, my dad ____ to work from home.

- A. tries
- B. try
- C. is trying

D. are trying

7. ____ your sister believe everything on Instagram?

A. Is

B. Does

C. Do

D. Are

8. I ____ my homework right now, but I usually ____ after dinner.

A. do / do

B. am doing / am doing

C. am doing / do

D. do / am doing

ANSWER KEY

Fill in the blanks:

1. wakes up · 2. is answering · 3. loves · 4. watch

5. am trying · 6. never posts · 7. are creating · 8. Do you know

Quiz:

1. B · 2. C · 3. B · 4. C · 5. A · 6. C · 7. B · 8. C

Beautiful work! Next lesson: Adverbs of Frequency — "How often do you lie? (Harmless ones!)"