

ADULTS A2 · GRAMMAR · LESSON 04 / 30

Routine or Right Now?

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

SIMPLE vs CONTINUOUS · 55 MIN

I

SAME VERB, DIFFERENT MEANING

Warm-Up

What is the difference? Read each pair. Which is routine? Which is now?

1. a) "I drink coffee every morning." b) "I am drinking coffee right now."
2. a) "She works in a hospital." b) "She is working late tonight."
3. a) "We study English on Tuesdays." b) "We are studying for an exam this week."
4. a) "He reads before bed." b) "He is reading a new novel at the moment."
5. a) "It rains a lot in November." b) "Look! It is raining!"

II

WHEN TO USE SIMPLE — WHEN TO USE CONTINUOUS

Grammar Focus

You already know both tenses. The question is: which one? Think of it like this: the Present Simple is a photograph of your life — the things always there. The Present Continuous is a video of this moment — what is happening right now.

THE BIG CONTRAST

Simple = always, every day, routine | **Continuous** = now, today, temporary

"I work in a bank." (my job) vs "I am working from home today." (just today)

SIDE BY SIDE — THE SAME VERB, TWO MEANINGS

PRESENT SIMPLE

"I work in a bank." (permanent)

"She drinks tea every morning." (habit)

"He doesn't eat meat." (never)

Signal words: always, usually, every day, on Mondays, never

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

"I am working from home today." (temporary)

"She is drinking coffee right now." (this moment)

"He is not eating today — fasting." (temporary)

(temporary)

Signal words: now, right now, at the moment, today, this week, currently, Look!

STATIVE VERBS — NEVER USE CONTINUOUS

Some verbs refuse the -ing form — they describe states, not actions.

Feelings: like, love, hate, want, need, prefer

Senses: see, hear, smell, taste

❑ *"I am wanting coffee."*

Thinking: know, believe, understand, remember

Possession: have (=possess), own, belong

❑ *"I want coffee."*



THE TWO TENSES ISSUE · VOLUME 04

Same person, **two** tenses

What they normally do — and what they are doing right now.

PORTRAIT ONE · THE TEACHER WHO IS ALSO A STUDENT

Daniela, 36 · Rome

Daniela teaches Italian at a language school. She works from nine to five. She usually walks to work. She loves her job. "I always enjoy the morning classes."

But this month, she is taking an online course. "I am studying every evening. I am not going out much. I am writing a presentation. I am not sleeping enough — I know that."

Right now, Daniela is sitting in the staff room. She is drinking coffee and checking her notes. "I am not teaching, I am not studying. I am just sitting here."

SIMPLE vs CONTINUOUS Simple for permanent: teaches, works, walks, loves, enjoys. Continuous for temporary/now: is taking, is studying, is not going out, is sitting, is drinking.

PORTRAIT TWO · THE CHEF WHO IS CHANGING CAREERS

Sam, 29 · Melbourne

Sam works as a chef. He starts at two and finishes at midnight. "I love cooking, but I don't love the hours."

So Sam is making a change. He is studying web development. "I am learning to code. I still need the money, but I am saving as much as I can."

Right now, Sam is sitting at his kitchen table. He is watching a tutorial about JavaScript. "People think it is crazy — a chef who is learning to code. But I believe in second careers."

SIMPLE vs CONTINUOUS · STATIVE VERBS Stative verbs: love, don't love, need, think, believe — all Simple even when talking about now. These describe states, not actions.

PORTRAIT THREE · THE BAKER GOING ONLINE**Fatima, 42 · Casablanca**

Fatima owns a bakery. She bakes bread and pastries. She opens at six and closes at three. "I make everything by hand. I don't use machines."

This week, she is selling cakes online for the first time. "My daughter is building a website. I am taking photos. I am learning social media." She laughs. "I am becoming an influencer!"

Right now, she is decorating a wedding cake. The oven is heating. A customer is calling. "I am not stopping for even one minute. But I love it."

SIMPLE vs CONTINUOUS · OWN, LOVE "Fatima owns a bakery" — Simple (own = stative). "She is selling online" — Continuous (new, temporary). "I love it" — Simple (love = state).

PORTRAIT FOUR · THE BUSY STUDENT**Yuki, 23 · Kyoto**

Yuki studies architecture. She goes to classes three days a week. She likes design, loves drawing, and hates statistics.

This semester, she is also working part-time. "I am earning money for a trip. I am not sleeping enough. My mother thinks I am doing too much."

What is changing? "University is getting harder. The workload is increasing. But my skills are improving. I am becoming a better designer. I can feel it."

THE FULL MIX Simple for permanent: studies, goes, likes, loves, hates, thinks, feels. Continuous for temporary: is working, is earning, is not sleeping. Continuous for change: is getting, is increasing, are improving, is becoming.

ANSWER KEY

PART VI · PRACTICE

1. A — drives
2. C — is sleeping
3. B — is living
4. A — love
5. C — are / doing
6. B — is getting
7. A — speaks
8. B — am cooking
9. C — have
10. A — Do / understand

PART IX · MINI QUIZ

- Q1: B — studies
- Q2: A — am listening
- Q3: C — don't understand
- Q4: B — is walking
- Q5: A — are playing
- Q6: D — belong
- Q7: C — think
- Q8: B — is improving
- Q9: A — Simple
- Q10: D — I am knowing the answer.

Well done! Lesson 04 complete. Next: Past Simple (Regular Verbs) — Throwback Thursday.