

# Present tenses

PRESENT SIMPLE		PRESENT CONTINUOUS	
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>+</b> Subj + <del>to</del> inf (if subj = 3<sup>rd</sup> pers sing → + -s)</li> <li><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>DO</b>, if subj = 3<sup>rd</sup> pers sing → + -s) + <b>not</b> + <del>to</del> inf</li> <li><b>?</b> Aux (<b>DO</b>, if subj = 3<sup>rd</sup> pers sing → + -s) + Subj + <del>to</del> inf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>+</b> Subj + Aux (<b>BE</b>) pres simple + <del>to</del> inf + -ing</li> <li><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>BE</b>) pres simple + <b>not</b> + <del>to</del> inf + -ing</li> <li><b>?</b> Aux (<b>BE</b>) past simple + subj + <del>to</del> inf + -ing</li> </ul>	
Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Permanent situations</b> &gt; Cad departments <b>plan</b> engines.</li> <li><b>Frequency and routines</b> &gt; The factory always <b>opens</b> at 5 am.</li> <li><b>Facts</b> &gt; After stretching, spandex <b>returns</b> to its original shape.</li> <li><b>Timetables</b> &gt; On Fridays, the briefing <b>ends</b> at 8.30 a.m.</li> <li><b>Description of places</b> &gt; London's tube <b>covers</b> 402 km.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Temporary situations</b> &gt; Mr Stan <b>isn't coming</b> today.</li> <li><b>Current events</b> &gt; The factory <b>is</b> currently <b>buying</b> new machinery.</li> <li><b>Moment of speaking</b> &gt; Paul <b>is assembling</b> the circuit at the moment.</li> <li><b>Future definite arrangements</b> &gt; I <b>am sending</b> the design tomorrow.</li> <li><b>Description of pictures/graphs</b> &gt; The production <b>is growing</b> at a rate of 10%.</li> </ol>	
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Frequency adverbs</b> &gt; always, often, usually, sometimes, rarely, seldom, never...</li> <li><b>Frequency expressions</b> &gt; every day/month/..., twice a day/month/...</li> <li><b>Expressions that indicate habits</b> &gt; on Sunday/..., at Halloween/..., in winter/...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Expressions that indicate temporariness</b> &gt; at the moment, at present, now, today, while, this + time expression, these + time expression</li> </ul>	
!!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both <b>state</b> and <b>action verbs</b> can be used in the present simple.</li> <li><b>State verbs</b>: volition, cognition, perception, feeling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only <b>action verbs</b> can be used in the present continuous. State verbs can't.</li> <li><b>Habitual actions</b> can use the present continuous to mean annoyance &gt; Mr Smith <b>is</b> always <b>criticising</b> his employees.</li> </ul>	
PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE		PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>+</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) present simple + Past Participle</li> <li><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) present simple + <b>not</b> + Past Participle</li> <li><b>?</b> Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) present simple + Subj + Past Participle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>+</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) present simple + Aux (<b>BE</b>) past participle + <del>to</del> inf + -ing</li> <li><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) present simple + <b>not</b> + Aux (<b>BE</b>) past participle + <del>to</del> inf + -ing</li> <li><b>?</b> Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) present simple + Subj + Aux (<b>BE</b>) past participle + <del>to</del> inf + -ing</li> </ul>	
Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Present impact of past action/recent event</b> &gt; We <b>have improved</b> the battery power: the car can run up to 600 km.</li> <li><b>Unfinished action started in the past</b> &gt; We <b>haven't tested</b> the new AHU so far.</li> <li><b>Unfinished periods of time</b> &gt; Mr. Kirby <b>has been</b> here since 6.30 am (and still is)</li> <li><b>Present result of completed action in a period of time</b> &gt; They <b>have assembled</b> 100 pieces since this morning.</li> <li><b>Finished past events with no time reference</b> &gt; We <b>have analysed</b> a lot of interesting new projects.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unfinished continuous or repetitive actions</b> &gt; We <b>have been producing</b> this model for 3 years.</li> <li><b>Recently finished actions with evidence</b> &gt; The reservoir is almost empty; they <b>have been releasing</b> water for the past two weeks.</li> <li><b>Unfinished activities in a period of time</b> &gt; The technicians <b>have been installing</b> PV modules on the roof all day. (both day and assembly haven't finished yet)</li> </ol>	
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>just, ever, never, already, yet, for</b> + total duration, <b>since</b> + beginning of duration, <b>still, so far, recently, this/these</b> + time expression, <b>today, how long</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>for</b> + total duration, <b>since</b> + beginning of duration, <b>recently, this/these</b> + time expression, <b>today, how long</b></li> </ul>	

## 1 Choose the correct alternative.

- Mechanical engineers always *select* / *are selecting* materials for specific needs.
- Mr Brisk *operates* / *is operating* the engine at the moment.
- A steam engine *doesn't rely* / *isn't relying* on water sources to operate machinery.
- Ductility *enables* / *is enabling* a material to stretch and bend without cracking.
- Melting temperatures *depend* / *are depending* on the nature of the intermolecular bonds.
- Look! The train *moves* / *is moving*!
- The cylinders *overheat* / *are overheating*: switch the engine off, please.
- Thermoplastics *soften* / *are softening* when heated.
- Tomorrow we *test* / *are testing* the new material.
- They often *use* / *are using* that coolant.

## 2 Present simple vs continuous: complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

- Winter is coming. John ..... (fill) the radiator with new coolant.
- The strength of a material ..... (define) its internal resistance to an applied load.
- We have applied too much weight: the bar ..... (deform) right now.
- At the moment, we ..... (bend) these metal sheets.
- Mechanical properties ..... (describe) how a material ..... (react) to physical forces.
- Tomorrow we ..... (start) the vulcanisation process.
- Many sound insulation systems ..... (use) polyurethanes.
- The furnace never ..... (stop) working.

## 3 Present perfect simple vs continuous: complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

- My hands hurt. I ..... (cut) this material into tiny pieces and I ..... (not finish) yet.
- How many tonnes of recycled steel ..... (we - buy) this month?
- John is a very good technician but he ..... (never - work) on this machine.
- We ..... (wait) for the new elastomer since February.
- Production costs ..... (increase) more and more over the last two years.
- They ..... (just - finish) shaping the PVC water pipes.
- The beam ..... (show) a positive reaction to the static loading test.
- Tom ..... (already - shape) plexiglass because he ..... (produce) optical instruments.

## 4 Complete the text with the correct present tense.

I 1. .... (be) to Milan four times this month: I 2. .... (always - be) here on some official work. The Factory XY 3. .... (just - buy) a new PLC to control their production lines. They 4. .... (produce) parts of car bodies. At present, the PLC 5. .... (malfunction), so I 6. .... (repair) it tomorrow. I 7. .... (do) this type of work for six months now and I 8. .... (enjoy) it.

