Present Simple vs Present Continuous

We use the **present simple** for permanent states and repeated or habitual actions.	We use the **present continuous** for temporary states or actions, or for actions happening at the moment of speaking.
Time expressions used with the present simple: every day / week / month / year, usually, often, always, rarely, never, sometimes, in the morning / evening / afternoon, at night, etc.	**Time expressions used with the present continuous:** now, at present, at the moment, today, tonight

having a party.

Some verbs are usually only used in the simple tenses.

believe, belong, decide, forget, hate, hear, know, live, like, love, need, remember, smell, see, think, understand, want, etc.

The verb have is only used in the simple tenses when it means possess. Otherwise, it is used in the continuous tenses as well.

I **have** two cars at present. **BUT** She **is having** a bath now.

7 Circle the correct form of the verb.

1 Mum **cleans** / **is cleaning** the kitchen at the moment.

2 We always **do** / **are doing** our homework.

3 My friends **play** / **are playing** football now.

4 Julie usually **walks** / **is walking** to school.

5 I **wear** / **am wearing** my new T-shirt today.

6 I **don't know** / **'m not knowing** his name.

7 Ethan **loves** / **is loving** rock music.

8 I sometimes **meet** / **are meeting** my friends after school.

9 Sara **works** / **is working** hard these days.

10 Ivan **doesn't want** / **isn't wanting** to do his homework.

11 This bag is mine. It is **belonging** / **belongs** to me.

8 Write sentences as in the example:

1

Usually	Today
• pilot • fly / a plane	• ride a horse

She is a pilot. She usually flies a plane. Today, she is riding a horse.

2

Usually	Today
• cooks • cook	• eat / in a restaurant

3

Usually	Today
• musician • play / the piano	• listen / a CD

4

Usually	Today
• teacher • teach / students	• read a book

9 Choose the correct item.

1 Look at him! He ...... a horse.
  A rides   **B** riding   **C** is riding

2 He usually ...... tennis in the afternoon.
  A plays   **B** play   **C** is playing

3 What ...... in the kitchen, Mum?
  A do you   **B** are you doing **C** you do

4 She ...... dinner now.
  A isn't having   **B** doesn't have
  C don't have

5 He ...... comic books every day.
  A read   **B** is reading   **C** reads

6 Be quiet! The baby ....
  A sleep   **B** sleeps   **C** is sleeping

7 ...... he like exercising?
  A Do   **B** Does   **C** Is

8 Look! The dog ...... with the ball.
  A plays   **B** is playing   **C** are playing

11 Underline the correct *time expression*.

1 I go to school **every morning** / at the moment.

2 My parents **never** / **now** go to work on Sundays.

3 I go skiing **today** / **every** winter.

4 I **at present** / **always** do my homework. I'm a very good student.

5 I am having an English lesson **now** / **every** day.

6 My parents are working on **Saturdays** / **at the moment**.

7 I watch TV **tonight** / **in the evenings**.

8 I **usually** / **at present** go out with my friends on Sundays.

12 Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

Dear Katy,
Here I 1) .... *am* .... **(be)** in Mykonos, Greece. The weather 2) .... **(be)** fantastic. We 3) .... **(have)** a wonderful time.
At the moment, I 4) .... **(lie)** by the swimming pool with my brother, James. I 5) .... **(sunbathe)** and James 6) .... **(drink)** lemonade. We 7) .... **(sunbathe)** and 8) .... **(swim)** every day. At night, we usually 9) .... **(eat)** at a restaurant and then we 10) .... **(dance)** at one of the fantastic discos on the island.
I 11) .... **(love)** it here and I 12) .... **(not/want)** to leave!
Love,
Sally

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