

- English Grammar in Use (Grammar Addition to the Textbook English for Pharmacy and Medical Bioanalytics)
- Mgr. Zuzana Katerová
- Present Simple versus Present Perfect Simple or Progressive

Present Simple

The present tense is the base form of the verb: I **work** in London.
But the third person (she/he/it) adds an -s: She **works** in London.

We use the present tense to talk about:

something that is true in the present:

I **'m** nineteen years old.

He **lives** in London.

I **'m** a student.

something that happens again and again in the present:

I **play** football every weekend.

We use words like sometimes, often, always, rarely, seldom, occasionally, and never (adverbs of frequency) with the present tense:

I **sometimes** go to the cinema.

She **never** plays football.

something that is always true:

The adult human body **contains** 206 bones.

Light **travels** at almost 300,000 kilometres per second.

something that is fixed in the future:

The school term **starts** next week.

The train **leaves** at 1945 this evening.

We **fly** to Paris next week.



Questions and negatives

With the present tense, we use **do** and **does** to make questions. We use **does** for the third person (she/he/it) and we use **do** for the others.

Do you **play** the piano?

Does Jack **play** football?

Do Rita and Angela **live** in Manchester?

We use **do** and **does** with question words like **where**, **what** and **why**:

Where **do** you **live**?

What **does** he like?

Why **do** some people **smoke**?

Subject/Object questions

Sometimes you might see questions like this:

Who lives in London?

Who plays football at the weekend?

Who works at Liverpool City Hospital?

These are called **subject questions** – because the question word is the **subject** of the sentence. **There is no auxiliary verb and the word order is not inverted.**

But, look at these two questions:

Who does Romeo **love**? Romeo loves Juliet.

Who loves Romeo? Juliet loves Romeo.

In the first question, Romeo is the **subject** of the verb.

In the second question ‘who’ is the **subject** and Romeo is the **object**.

With the present tense we use do and does to make negatives. We use does not (doesn't) for the third person (she/he/it) and we use do not (don't) for the others.

I like tennis, but I **don't like** football. (don't = do not)

I **don't live** in London now.

I **don't play** the piano, but I play the guitar.

They **don't work** at the weekend.

John **doesn't live** in Manchester. (doesn't = does not)

Angela **doesn't drive** to work. She goes by bus.



Present Perfect Simple versus Present Perfect Progressive

The present perfect simple suggests completion while the continuous suggests something is unfinished.

We use the present perfect tense to talk about things where there is a connection between the past and the present.

He's written 16 books. - He started writing books at some time in the past. So far, he has written 16 books. He may write more books.

As well as the present perfect simple, we can use the present perfect continuous tense to talk about events with a connection to the present.

I've been decorating the house this summer. - The focus is on the action – decorating – and the action is unfinished.

I've painted the living room blue. - The focus is on the finished result. The activity is finished but we can see the result now.

We use the **present perfect continuous** when the focus is on an activity that is unfinished.

I've read that book you lent me. I finished it yesterday.

I've been reading that book you lent me. I've got another 50 pages to read.

The **present perfect simple** (*I've read*) gives the idea of completion while the **present perfect continuous** (*I've been reading*) suggests that something is unfinished.

She's been writing emails for 3 hours.

She's written 10 messages.

The **present perfect continuous** (*has been writing*) talks about how long something has been happening. The **present perfect simple** (*has written*) talks about how much/how many have been completed.

I've worked here for thirty years.

I usually work in London but **I've been working** in Birmingham for the last 3 weeks.

We can use the **present perfect simple** to talk about how long when we view something as permanent. But the **present perfect continuous** is often used to show that something is temporary.



Test your knowledge on Simple Past and Present Perfect Simple. Then check your answers below and you will see how well you have done in the test.

Fill in the correct form (pronoun + verb).

	Simple Present	Present Perfect Progressive
they / do	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
she / eat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
you / sit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
I / speak	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
he / write	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Positive Sentences

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

- I (read) since two o'clock.
- He (meet) his friends after school every day.
- They (live) here for just three months.
- The weather here (be) really bad in winter.
- We always (get up) very late on Sundays.

Negative Sentences

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

- My parents (speak/not) English very well.
- We (watch/not) TV for four hours.
- She (play/not) tennis on Tuesdays.
- He (study/not) for his English test since he came home.
- You need a break? Already? We (cycle/not) for more than half an hour.



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MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

Questions

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

1. What time (start/you) school on Mondays?
2. When (leave/the train) for Manchester?
3. How long (wait/we) for him?
4. (go/she) to school for six years now?
5. (get/they) much homework at school each day?

Text

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

1. Interviewer: Jane, how long (learn/you) English?
2. Jane: I (learn) English for six years. It's one of my favourite subjects.
3. Interviewer: What other subjects (like/you) ?
4. Jane: I also (love) art and physical education.
5. Interviewer: How often (do/you) sports per week?
6. Jane: I (go) jogging every morning and I (play) in my schools basketball team for two years. We (train) three times a week.
7. Interviewer: And what about art? (paint/you) a lot?
8. Jane: Oh yes, I (paint) since I was just two years old.



Now check your answers!

	Simple Present	Present Perfect Progressive
they / do	<u>they do</u>	<u>they have been doing</u>
she / eat	<u>she eats</u>	<u>she has been eating</u>
you / sit	<u>you sit</u>	<u>you have been sitting</u>
I / speak	<u>I speak</u>	<u>I have been speaking</u>
he / write	<u>he writes</u>	<u>he has been writing</u>

Positive Sentences

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

1. I have been reading since two o'clock.
2. He meets his friends after school every day.
3. They have been living here for just three months.
4. The weather here is really bad in winter.
5. We always get up very late on Sundays.

Negative Sentences

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

1. My parents do not speak English very well.
2. We have not been watching TV for four hours.
3. She does not play tennis on Tuesdays.
4. He has not been studying for his English test since he came home.
5. You need a break? Already? We have not been cycling for more than half an hour.



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Questions

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

1. What time do you start school on Mondays?
2. When does the train leave for Manchester?
3. How long have we been waiting for him?
4. Has she been going to school for six years now?
5. Do they get much homework at school each day?

Text

Fill in the correct tense (Simple Present or Present Perfect Progressive).

1. Interviewer: Jane, how long have you been learning English?
2. Jane: I have been learning English for six years. It's one of my favourite subjects.
3. Interviewer: What other subjects do you like ?
4. Jane: I also love art and physical education.
5. Interviewer: How often do you do sports per week?
6. Jane: I go jogging every morning and I have been playing in my schools basketball team for two years. We train three times a week.
7. Interviewer: And what about art? Do you paint a lot?
8. Jane: Oh yes, I have been painting since I was just two years old.

