

GRAMMAR FOCUS

0.1 Present tenses – review

Present Simple

We use the Present Simple to talk about:

- actions which are repeated regularly:
*I always **drive** to work.*
- states and permanent situations:
*The chef **doesn't come** from Italy.*
- with verbs expressing emotions (*hate, like, love, etc.*), states of mind (*believe, know, need, prefer, remember, seem, think, understand, want, etc.*) or senses (*feel, hear, see, etc.*):
*Do you **prefer** Indian food or Chinese food?*

Present Continuous

We use the Present Continuous to talk about:

- actions happening at the time of speaking:
*Most of the guests **are sitting** on the outdoor patio at the moment.*
- temporary situations:
*I'm **working** at Tuco's bar during the summer break.*

Present Perfect Simple

We use the Present Perfect Simple to talk about actions and situations which:

- finished in the past and have a result in the present (and we don't know or it's not important when exactly they happened):
*I've **made** coffee. Would you like some?*
- started in the past and continue into the present:
*How long **have** you **owned** this restaurant?*

Present Perfect Continuous

We use the Present Perfect Continuous to talk about:

- actions which started in the past and continue into the present:
*Zoe **has been sleeping** since two o'clock.*
- actions which lasted for some time (and possibly still continue) and whose results we can see now:
*I'm tired because I've **been cleaning** the house all day.*

Present Perfect Simple vs Present Perfect Continuous

We use the Present Perfect Continuous to focus on the action or process (which may or may not be complete):

*I've **been baking** biscuits all morning.*

We use the Present Perfect Simple to focus on the result of a finished action:

*I've **baked** 200 biscuits.*

Choose the correct options.

- 1 I'm really tired. I *have cooked* / *have been cooking* all day.
- 2 I *haven't seen* / *haven't been seeing* Margaret recently.
How is she?
- 3 She *thinks* / *is thinking* she'll have the steak, but she can't decide.
- 4 Do you *hear* / *Are you hearing* that noise? I wonder what it is.
- 5 I'm watching my weight, so I *prefer* / *am preferring* not to have any sugar in my coffee.
- 6 The meeting *is taking place* / *takes place* upstairs today because of the flood damage on the ground floor.
- 7 Margaret *has been writing* / *has written* the reports. Can you take them up to Mr. Jones?

0.2 Past tenses – review

Past Simple

We use the Past Simple to talk about:

- actions and situations which started and finished in the past.
We often say when they happened:
*We **bought** this house in 2013.*
- a series of actions that happened one after the other:
*Messi **kicked** the ball and it **flew** into the net.*

Past Continuous

We use the Past Continuous:

- to talk about actions which were in progress at a particular time in the past:
*'What **were** you **doing** at eight yesterday evening?'*
*'I **was watching** a football game on TV.'*
- to talk about an action which was in progress when another action took place (for the shorter action, which happened while the longer action was in progress, we use the Past Simple):
*When she **was skiing** down the slope, another skier **crashed** into her.*
- to describe background states for other events:
*On the day of the match the sun **was shining** and a light breeze **was blowing**.*

Past Perfect Simple

We use the Past Perfect Simple to talk about an action that happened before a particular time in the past or before another past action (for the action that happened first, we use the Past Simple):

*The party **had finished** by midnight.*

*Owen **had scored** two goals before the coach **decided** to substitute him.*