

ENGLISH

# Unit 5: Present Tense



*English for Beginners with*

**THE INSPIRE ACADEMY**



# Present Tense



A 'verb tense' tells you when an action occurred.

There are three main verb tense in English - the past tense, the **present** tense and the future tense.

The Present Tense is further classified into four forms:

1. Present Simple
2. Present Perfect
3. Present Continuous
4. Present Perfect Continuous

# Present Simple

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## FORM:

In the present simple, the base form of the verb is the same for every subject pronoun, except the third person, where you add an “s” to the end of the verb.

For example,

I eat, You eat,

He/She/It eats,

We eat, They eat, You (all) eat

## USES:

- Habits – I never eat fish.
- General Truths – The sun rises in the east.
- Repeated Actions of Events – They drive to work every day.
- Fixed Arrangements/ Timetables – The bus leaves at 6:30 pm.
- Feelings/Opinions/Beliefs – I love coffee.
- Instructions – Keep this container in a cold storage area.

# Present Continuous

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## FORM:

The present tense of “to be” (am/is/are)+ verb + ing.

## USES:

- Actions happening in the moment – We are learning grammar.
- Fixed arrangements for the future – I’m getting married in December.
- Temporary events – He’s living in New York for the moment.

# Present Perfect

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## FORM:

Auxillary verb - have + past participle of the verb.

## USES:

- Actions that start in the past and continue to the present – I've lived here for four years.
- Repeated action in an unspecified time period – I've visited the Eiffel Tower many times.
- Unfinished time (today, this week, this month, this year) – I've ridden my bicycle today.
- A finished action with a present result – I've lost my keys (therefore I can't open the door).
- Recent past with words like 'just', 'recently', etc. – I've just spoken to my brother on the phone

# Present Perfect Continuous



## FORM:

The auxiliary verb have/has + been + base verb + ing for the present perfect continuous form.

## USES:

- Actions that started in the past and continue in the present – I've been watching The Office.
- To emphasise the duration or 'how long' (with for and since) – Pam has been playing the violin since she was eight.
- Recently finished actions, with present results – Why have you been crying? (tears in the eyes). It's been raining (the ground is wet).

# EXERCISE



Identify the correct form of present tense for the underlined forms in the sentences given below:

1) Paris is beautiful.

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2) I am staying in Corsica for the summer.

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3) The taxi has arrived.

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4) I am going to be late, so I'll meet you directly at the restaurant.

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5) I have eaten Sushi for dinner thrice this month.

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6) I have tried that dress on, but it doesn't fit.

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7) It has been snowing since last week.

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8) The weather is cold.

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9) My sister and I play basketball every Sunday.

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10) I have been feeling sick, therefore I cannot join you.

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11) I have been to Scotland before.

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12) You will be going there today, please make sure to buy some fruit.

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13) He hasn't surfed before, so he is going to get lessons.

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14) They are very social, I always see them having parties.

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15) When are you going to the market?

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# EXERCISE

Select the correct form of the present tense to be used in each sentence.

1. My father \_\_\_\_\_ an engineer.
  - a. is
  - b. are
  - c. am
  - d. been
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ driving for three years.
  - a. is
  - b. have
  - c. are
  - d. have been
3. It \_\_\_\_\_ the same for three years.
  - a. are
  - b. have been
  - c. is
  - d. has been
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ to the market, \_\_\_\_\_ you coming with me?
  - a. am going, is
  - b. have gone, are
  - c. are going, am
  - d. am going, are

# AUDIO EXERCISE

For this audio exercise please write out your responses to the questions that are asked to you. Respond to every question using the present tense.

On the next page please write out your responses, you can pause the audio if you need.

Make sure to focus and use what you learned in this unit to form your responses!

Good luck!

Bonne chance!



# AUDIO EXERCISE

You may use this paper for the exercise.

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