



Present tens

English Grammar



Types of Presents Tense

- Present Simple
- Present Continuous
- Present Perfect



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.
- USE
- something that is true in the **present**:

➤ 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, and never (adverbs of frequency) with the present tense:
I sometimes go to the cinema.



Present Simple

- something that is always true:
 - Light travels at almost 300,000 kilometres per second.
- something that is fixed in the future.
 - The school term starts next week.

Question

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?

Where do you live?

Does Jack play football?

Where does he come from?



Present Continuous

- The present continuous tense is formed from the present tense of the verb be and the present participle (-ing form) of a verb:
- for something that is happening at the moment of speaking:
 - I'm just leaving work. I'll be home in an hour.
- for something which is happening before and after a given time:
 - At eight o'clock we are usually having breakfast.
- for something which we think is temporary:
 - I'm working in London for the next two weeks.



Present Continuous

- for something which is new and contrasts with a previous state:
 - These days most people are using email instead of writing letters.
- for something which happens again and again:
 - It's always raining in London.
- **We use the present continuous tense to talk about the future:**
 - Mary is going to a new school next term.
 - What are you doing next week?



Present Perfect

- The present perfect is formed from the present tense of the verb have and the past participle of a verb:
- for something that started in the past and continues in the present:
 - They've been married for nearly fifty years.
- for something we have done several times in the past and continue to do:
 - I've played the guitar ever since I was a teenager.
- when we are talking about our experience up to the present:
- ❖ Note: We often use the adverb ever to talk about experience up to the present:
 - My last birthday was the worst day I have ever had.



Present Perfect

- Note: and we use never for the negative form:
 - Have you ever met George?
 - Yes, but I've never met his family.
- for something that happened in the past but is important at the time of speaking:
 - I can't get in the house. I've lost my keys.