

Unit 5

*The Indefinite (Simple),
Continuous (Progressive).*

The Prepositions of time.

Present simple (1)

1 Form

POSITIVE

I/We/You/They

live

in São Paulo.

He/She/It

lives

in the countryside.

We add *-s* or *-es* to the verb after *he/she/it*:

go → goes, teach → teaches, wash → washes, relax → relaxes

Sometimes the spelling changes:

carry → carries, fly → flies

NEGATIVE

I/We/You/They

do not

like

big cities.

He/She/It

does not

the countryside.

SHORT FORMS

I/We/You/They don't live

here.

He/She/It doesn't live



After *he/she/it*, we use *doesn't*:

✗ He don't like cities. ✓ He doesn't like cities.

2 Use

We use the present simple

- for facts that are always true:

*Water **boils** at 100°C and **freezes** at 0°C. The Sun **doesn't** go round the Earth.*

*Some trees **don't** lose their leaves in winter.*

- for things that we don't expect to change:

*I **don't** live in the country; I **live** in the city.*

*My sister **doesn't** work in an office; she **works** in a hospital.*

- for feelings (e.g. *feel, hate, like, love, prefer, want*):

*My grandfather **likes** the countryside. He **doesn't** like the city. I **prefer** ballet to opera.*

- for thoughts and ideas (e.g. *agree, believe, know, mean, remember, think, understand*):

*'I **think** New York is exciting.' 'Yes, I **agree**.' A red light **means** 'Stop'. You **don't** understand.*

Present simple (2)

1 Form

Yes / No QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS	
<i>Do</i>	<i>I/we/you/they</i>	<i>work here?</i>	<i>Yes, I/we/you/they do.</i>	<i>No, I/we/you/they do not (don't).</i>
<i>Does</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>		<i>Yes, he/she/it does.</i>	<i>No, he/she/it does not (doesn't).</i>

Wh- QUESTIONS			
<i>When/What time</i> <i>How often</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>I/we/you/they</i>	<i>get up?</i> <i>come?</i>
<i>What</i>	<i>does</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>	<i>do on Sundays?</i>



We don't add -s to the main verb in questions and negatives.

X Where does he works? ✓ *Where does he work?*

2 Use

We use the present simple for things that happen regularly:

David goes to work by bus. The bus stops outside his house.

'Do you drink a lot of coffee?' 'Yes, I do, but my parents only drink tea.'

When we talk about *when* or *how often* we do regular activities we can use

- **time expressions** (e.g. *every day/evening/weekend, at the weekend, on Mondays/Sundays, once a week/month/year*):

Do you come here every day? I go on holiday once a year.



Look at the word order:

✓ *On Sundays, we go to our grandparents' house for lunch.*

✓ *We go to our grandparents' house for lunch on Sundays.*

✗ ~~*We go on Sundays to our grandparents' house for lunch.*~~

● adverbs of frequency (e.g. *never, often, always*). We usually put these BEFORE the verb:

We usually start at eight o'clock.

'Do you drive to work?' 'No, we always take public transport. We never drive.'



With the verb *be* we put the adverb AFTER the verb:

✗ ~~*She often is late.*~~ ✓ *She's often late.*

Present continuous (1)

1 Form

We form the present continuous with *am*, *is* or *are* + the *-ing* form of the main verb
e.g. *watching*, *going*, *eating*.

POSITIVE			SHORT FORM
<i>I</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>watching TV.</i>	<i>I'm watching TV.</i>
<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>leaving.</i>	<i>He's/She's/It's leaving.</i>
<i>We/You/They</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>practising.</i>	<i>You're/We're/They're practising.</i>

NEGATIVE			SHORT FORM	
<i>I</i>	<i>am not</i>	<i>watching TV.</i>	<i>I'm not</i>	<i>watching TV.</i>
<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>is not</i>		<i>He isn't/He's not</i> <i>She isn't/She's not</i> <i>It isn't/It's not</i>	
<i>We/You/They</i>	<i>are not</i>		<i>You aren't/You're not</i>	

Sometimes the spelling of the main verb changes, eg:

take → *taking*

lie → *lying*

swim → *swimming*

Spelling of *-ing* forms of verbs

most verbs	add <i>-ing</i> to the infinitive form	<i>eat</i> → <i>eating</i> <i>go</i> → <i>going</i> <i>sleep</i> → <i>sleeping</i>
verbs that end in <i>-e</i>	take away <i>-e</i> and add <i>-ing</i>	<i>take</i> → <i>taking</i> <i>use</i> → <i>using</i>
verbs that end in <i>-ie</i>	take away <i>-ie</i> and add <i>-ying</i>	<i>die</i> → <i>dying</i> <i>lie</i> → <i>lying</i>
verbs of one syllable that end in a short vowel + consonant	double the consonant and add <i>-ing</i>	<i>sit</i> → <i>sitting</i> <i>swim</i> → <i>swimming</i>
verbs with more than one syllable that end in a <u>stressed</u> short vowel and consonant, e.g. <i>begin</i> .	double the consonant and add <i>-ing</i> (We don't double the consonant if the final syllable is not stressed: <i>visit</i> → <i>visiting</i>)	<i>begin</i> → <i>beginning</i> <i>forget</i> → <i>forgetting</i>

2 Use

We use the present continuous

- to describe something that is happening while we are speaking:

*Hurry up. The taxi's **waiting** outside right now.*

*Can you help me? I'm **looking** for the post office.*

*James can't come to the door – he's **having** a bath.*

- to talk about something that is happening around now, for a limited period of time:

*I'm using my brother's computer today because mine **isn't working**.*

*We're on holiday this week. We're **staying** in a hotel near the beach.*

We often use time expressions (e.g. *(right) now, at the moment, today, this week*):

*This year we're **studying** the history of the theatre.*

1 Form

Yes/No QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS	
<i>Am</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>sitting here?</i>	<i>Yes, I am.</i>	<i>No, I'm not.</i>
<i>Is</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>		<i>Yes, he/she/it is.</i>	<i>No, he/she/it isn't.</i>
<i>Are</i>	<i>we/you/they</i>		<i>Yes, we/you/they are.</i>	<i>No, we/you/they aren't.</i>

Wh- QUESTIONS

<i>What</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>doing?</i>
<i>Where</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>	<i>going?</i>
<i>Why</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>we/you/they</i>	<i>running?</i>

In questions, we put *am/is/are* before the subject of the sentence.

We put the *-ing* form after the subject:

What are you studying this term?

Is she listening to the radio?



- X Are waiting you for me?*
- X Waiting are you for me?*
- ✓ Are you waiting for me?*



We don't usually repeat the main verb when we answer questions:

- Is that man phoning the police?* *X Yes, he is phoning.* *✓ Yes, he is.*
X No, he isn't phoning. *✓ No, he isn't.*



We don't use the short form of the verb in short answers with *yes*.

- Is she sleeping?* *X Yes, she's.*
✓ Yes, she is.

2 Use

We often use the present continuous to talk about what is happening in pictures and photos:

What are they doing?

– They're watching a film.

Present simple or present continuous?

1 Use

PRESENT SIMPLE

to talk about things we do regularly:

Carla **dances** for the Euro Ballet Company every evening.



with time expressions:

usually, often, every day, once a month

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

to talk about things that are happening at the time we are speaking:

Right now, Carla's **dancing** in *Swan Lake*.

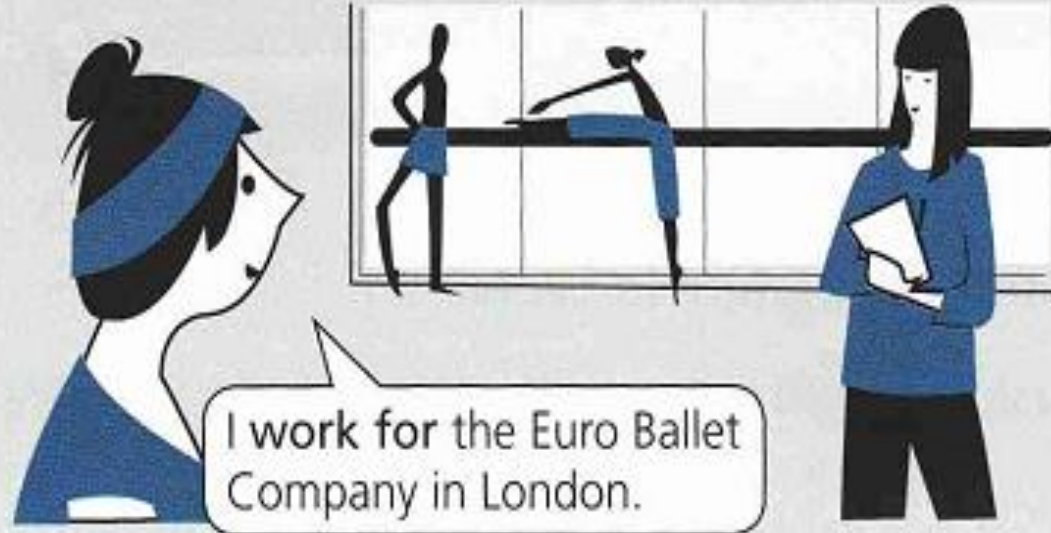


with time expressions:

right now, at the moment

PRESENT SIMPLE

to talk about permanent situations:



no time expressions

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

to talk about temporary situations:



with time expressions:

today, this week, at the moment

2 Verbs that don't use the continuous form



We don't normally use the continuous with these verbs:

- feeling verbs (*like, love, hate, prefer, need, want*):
X I am liking music.
✓ I like music.
- thinking verbs (*agree, believe, forget, know, mean, remember, think, understand*):
X My brother is agreeing with me.
✓ My brother agrees with me.
- sense verbs (*hear, see, smell, taste*):
X That coffee is smelling delicious!
✓ That coffee smells delicious!
- the verbs *be, belong, contain, cost, own*:
X That bag isn't belonging to me.
✓ That bag doesn't belong to me.

The verb *think* has a different meaning in the present simple and the present continuous:

What do you think of the show? (= What is your opinion?)

What are you thinking about? (= Tell me your thoughts now.)

Past simple (1)

1 Form

We add *-ed* to most verbs to make the past simple:

watch → *watched*, *finish* → *finished*

Study these spellings:

die → *died*, *live* → *lived*, *like* → *liked*

stop → *stopped*, *plan* → *planned*, *travel* → *travelled*

carry → *carried*, *study* → *studied*

I/You	<i>finished yesterday.</i>
He/She/It	
We/You/They	

 The pronunciation of the *-ed* ending depends on the sound that comes before it.

Some verbs are irregular. They do not form the past simple with *-ed*:

buy → *bought*, *do* → *did*, *have (got)* → *had (got)*,

go → *went*, *hit* → *hit*, *leave* → *left*,

make → *made*, *put* → *put*, *say* → *said*, *take* → *took*,

see → *saw*, *tell* → *told*, *win* → *won*

Spelling of regular verbs

(past simple endings and past participles)

verbs that end in -e	add -d	<i>die → died like → liked</i> <i>live → lived</i>
verbs that end in a stressed vowel and one consonant (except y, w or x)	double the consonant and add -ed (We don't double the consonant if the final syllable is not stressed)	<i>plan → planned</i> <i>rob → robbed</i> <i>stop → stopped</i> (<i>visit → visited open → opened</i>)
verbs that end in a consonant + -y	remove -y and add -ied	<i>carry → carried study → studied</i>
verbs that end in a vowel + -y	add -ed	<i>enjoy → enjoyed play → played</i>

2 Use

We use the past simple to talk about

- a single finished action in the past:

I went to the dentist yesterday.

I passed my exam last week.

- a repeated action in the past:

I called your mobile five times yesterday.

We often use time expressions (e.g. *yesterday, in 2002, last year*) to say when something happened:

<i>Daniel Craig made his first Bond film</i>	<i>in 2006.</i>
<i>I started work</i>	<i>last month.</i>
<i>It rained all day</i>	<i>yesterday.</i>
<i>My English course started</i>	<i>two months ago. (two months before now)</i>

We can also use *when* + past simple:

*My father played football **when he was young.***

When she left college, Isabel had no money.

Past simple (2)

1 Form

NEGATIVE	Yes/No QUESTIONS	SHORT ANSWERS
<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They did not (didn't) arrive.</i>	<i>Did I/he/she/it/we/you/they arrive?</i>	<i>Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they did. No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they didn't.</i>

WH- QUESTIONS				
<i>What</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>on Saturday?</i>
<i>Where</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>for dinner?</i>
<i>How much</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>the meal</i>	<i>cost?</i>	



X ~~*What you did on Saturday?*~~

✓ *What **did** you **do** on Saturday?*

2 Use

We use the past simple

- when one thing happens after another in the past:
*We **arrived** at the airport at eleven o'clock and **took** a taxi to the hotel.
Then we **went** to the café and **had** a drink, but we **didn't** eat anything.*
- to talk about a situation that finished in the past:
*I **lived** with my grandparents last summer.
Did men **have** long hair in the 1960s?
MP3 players **didn't** exist when I was a child.*

3 Words we use with the past simple

- We use *then* to say that one action happened after another one:
*'I finished school in 2006. **Then** I went to university.'*
*'And what did you do **then**?' (after university)*
- We use *from ... to* to say when a past situation started and finished:
*James Dean lived **from** 1931 **to** 1955.*
*I waited for you **from** eight o'clock **to** half past nine!*
- We use *for + ten minutes, two hours, a week, etc.* to say how long a past situation lasted:
*Daniela stayed with her cousins **for two weeks** last summer.*

Past continuous

1 Form

POSITIVE

I/He/She/It was working.

We/You/They were working.

NEGATIVE

I/He/She/It was not (wasn't) working.

We/You/They were not (weren't) working.

QUESTIONS

Was I/he/she/it working?

Were we/you/they working?

SHORT ANSWERS

Yes, I/he/she/it was.

Yes, we/you/they were.

No, we/you/they weren't.

No, we/you/they weren't.

We form the **past continuous** with *was/were* + the *-ing* form of the verb.

2 Use

We use the past continuous

- to describe an action at or around a time in the past:

*At seven o'clock Marek **was making** the dinner and Isabella **was putting** the children to bed.
I **was watching** TV at nine o'clock.*



The action started before nine o'clock and can continue after it.

- for temporary situations in the past:

*Sally **was living** in Paris when she had her first baby.*




- to describe a scene in the past, especially when you are telling a story:
When we arrived at the beach, the sun was shining.
They were cleaning the swimming pool when we got to the hotel.
- to describe something you did until an event interrupted you and stopped you:
I was watching TV when the phone rang.



James Dean was driving a Porsche when he died.

Gerald was playing football when he hurt his arm.

 We don't usually use verbs, such as *like, see, hear, think, agree* in the past continuous.

Past simple or past continuous?

1 Use

PAST SIMPLE	PAST CONTINUOUS
<p>to describe one or more finished actions in the past:</p> <p><i>We arrived at the hotel at three o'clock and went to our room.</i></p> <p><i>I called you about four times yesterday afternoon.</i></p>	<p>to describe an unfinished action at and around a time in the past:</p> <p><i>When we arrived at the hotel, the maid was cleaning our room.</i> (The cleaning was not finished when we arrived.)</p> <p><i>I couldn't answer the phone because I was speaking to some clients.</i></p>
<p>when one action happened after another:</p> <p><i>When Isabel came, we watched a DVD.</i> (= Isabel came and then we watched a DVD.)</p> 	<p>to describe something you were doing at the time when another thing happened:</p> <p><i>When Isabel came, we were watching a DVD.</i> (= We were watching a DVD at the time Isabel came.)</p> 

2 *when* and *while*

We can use either *when* or *while* before the past continuous:

The bridge collapsed when/while the truck was crossing it.

The post came when/while I was having my breakfast.



We don't use *while* before the past simple, but we can use *when*:

~~*While the post came I was having my breakfast.*~~

✓ When the post came, I was having my breakfast.

Future with *going to*

1 Form

POSITIVE			NEGATIVE		
<i>I</i>	<i>am ('m)</i>	<i>going to win.</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>am not ('m not)</i>	<i>going to win.</i>
<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>is ('s)</i>		<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>is not (isn't)</i>	
<i>We/You/They</i>	<i>are ('re)</i>		<i>We/You/They</i>	<i>are not (aren't)</i>	

QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS	
<i>Am</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>going to win?</i>	<i>Yes, I am.</i>	<i>No, I'm not.</i>
<i>Is</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>		<i>Yes, he/she/it is.</i>	<i>No, he/she/it isn't.</i>
<i>Are</i>	<i>we/you/they</i>		<i>Yes, we/you/they are.</i>	<i>No, we/you/they aren't.</i>

2 Future plans

We use *going to* to talk about our future plans:

I'm going to apply for a new job.

Carol isn't going to be at the meeting.

Are you going to come to the party?

We often use time expressions (e.g. *tomorrow, next week, on Monday*) with *going to*:

I'm going to see Manchester United on Saturday.

They're not going to have a summer holiday this year.

What are you going to do this evening?

NATURAL ENGLISH It is possible to use *going to + go/come*:

I'm going to go shopping this afternoon.

But the present continuous (► [Unit 59](#)) is more common:

I'm going shopping this afternoon.

I'm coming to London on Tuesday.

3 Things we expect to happen

We also use *going to* to talk about things we expect to happen in the future because of something we know or can see NOW:

I'm not going to finish this copying by three o'clock! (because it's 2.51 and there's a lot to do)

I'm going to be late for work. (because I'm in a traffic jam now)

It's going to rain. (because the sky is dark and full of clouds now)

In informal conversation and in songs we often pronounce *going to* as 'gonna' /gənə/.

Future with *will*

1 Form

POSITIVE	<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They will ('ll) win.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They will not (won't) win.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will I/he/she/it/we/you/they win?</i>
SHORT ANSWERS	<i>Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they will. No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they will not (won't).</i>

2 Certain/possible future

We use *will* to talk about things that are certain to happen in the future:

My mother will be fifty in May.

There will be elections next year.

China will soon be the world's richest country.

We also use *will* to say what we think will happen in the future:

In the future people will live and work in space.

Clare won't be late, she's always on time.

We can use *probably* and *definitely* to say how sure we are:

I'll definitely pass the test. (I'm sure this will happen.)

We'll probably go to Spain next summer. (I think this will happen, but I'm not sure.)

We usually put these adverbs after *will* but before *won't*:

We'll probably go to Spain. We definitely won't go to Portugal.

3 Decisions, offers, promises and warnings

We use *will* when we decide to do something while we are speaking – something that we didn't plan:

'Mr Baxter isn't here at the moment. Can I take a message?' 'No thanks. I'll call again later.'

'Do you want to watch the midnight movie?' 'No, I'm tired. I think I'll go to bed now.'

NATURAL ENGLISH We often use *I (don't) think + will*:

I'm tired. I think I'll go to bed now.

It's quite early. I don't think I'll go to bed yet.

We also use *will* to make offers, promises and warnings:

We'll take you to the hospital. I'll work harder next year. Don't eat so much – you'll get fat!

Leave now or you'll miss the train.

4 *shall*

It is possible to use *shall* to mean *will* after *I* and *we*. But in everyday English we only use *shall* to offer or suggest something:

It's hot in here. Shall I open a window? Shall we get the earlier train?

Prepositions of time

Prepositions of time (1)

1 *at, in, on*

<i>at</i> +	an exact time	<i>The train arrives at 6.00. The film starts at 9.00.</i>
	special days or occasions	<i>Lucy met an old friend at her sister's wedding.</i>
	times of meals and the weekend	<i>The concert is at lunchtime. What are you doing at the weekend?</i>
<i>in</i> +	parts of the day	<i>There are events in the evening every day. It gets cooler in the afternoon.</i>
	months, seasons, years, centuries	<i>The festival is in May. He was born in 1994. They built the castle in the eleventh century.</i>
<i>on</i> +	dates and days	<i>The festival starts on 5 May. My interview is on Thursday afternoon.</i>



We say *at night*, NOT *in the night*:

~~*X The supermarket is open in the night*~~ ✓ *The supermarket is open at night.*

2 No preposition

We don't use a preposition with

- *this* (morning, week, etc.):
*What time did you have breakfast **this morning**?*
- *last* (month, year, etc.):
*The new theatre opened **last month**.*
- *next* (week, year, etc.):
*My English course starts **next week**.*
- *every* (day, weekend, etc.):
*There are special events **every day**.*



~~*X Kevin's exam was on last Tuesday.*~~ ✓ *Kevin's exam was **last Tuesday**.*
~~*X There's a festival here in every February.*~~ ✓ *There's a festival here **every February**.*

3 *in, until, from ... to/until*

*My birthday is **in** five days.* (five days from now)

*The festival continues **until** 12 May.* (it ends on this date)

*The festival lasts **from** 9 May **to/until** 12 May.*
(from the beginning to the end of this time)



Prepositions of time (2)

1 *before, after*

We use *before* and *after* with

- times:

*Let's meet **before** 7.00. The film starts then.*

*Train tickets are cheaper **after** 9.30 in the morning.*

- events/situations:

*There will be drinks **before** the film. Let's watch TV **after** dinner.*

*My grandmother was born **before** the war. I can meet you **after** work.*

2 *by, for, during*

We use *by* to mean 'not later than':

*Please give me your homework **by Friday**.* (on or before Friday)

*The holiday will be cheaper if we book it **by 30 April**.* (on or before 30 April)

*The meeting is on Wednesday so I'll finish the report **by then**.*

We use *for* + a period of time:

for an hour, two days, three weeks

It means 'the whole time':

*We waited for the bus **for an hour**.*



We use *during* + an event or situation:

during the flight, the winter, the war

*Neil Brand plays the piano **during the film**.*

*Uncle Andy called us **during supper** with some bad news.*

Compare *during* and *for*:

*I only slept **for** half an hour **during** the flight.*

*It rained **for** two days **during** our holiday.*



*~~X I go to classes **during** three hours in the afternoon.~~*

*✓ I go to classes **for** three hours in the afternoon.*