

Word-Classes in E4BT

2. VERBS: PRESENT TENSES' FORMS AND USAGE

Present Simple – FORMS

affirmative form

I infect
You infect
He/She/It infects
We infect
You infect
They infect

negative form¹

I do not infect
You do not infect
He/She/It does not infect
We do not infect
You do not infect
They do not infect

interrogative form

Do I infect?
Do you infect?
Does he/she/it infect?
Do we infect?
Do you infect?
Do they infect?

Present Continuous - FORMS

affirmative form²

I am spreading
You are spreading
He/She/It is spreading
We are spreading
You are spreading
They are spreading

negative form³

I am not spreading
You are not spreading
He/She/It is not spreading
We are not spreading
You are not spreading
They are not spreading

interrogative form

Am I spreading?
Are you spreading?
Is he/she/it spreading?
Are we spreading?
Are you spreading?
Are they spreading?

¹ Auxiliary's contracted forms – namely **don't** and **doesn't** – are mainly used in spoken or informal English.

² Auxiliary's contracted forms – namely **'m**, **'re** and **'s** – are mainly used in spoken or informal English.

³ Auxiliary's contracted forms – namely **'m not**, **aren't**, **isn't** – are mainly used in spoken or informal English.

USAGE



Present Simple	Present Continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- talking about general facts: John lives with his family and studies Biotechnology at UniTe. That patient comes from Australia. Chickenpox is a common illness that mainly affects children and causes an itchy, spotty rash.- talking about routines: I generally get up early. Canine influenza spreads easily and often damages lungs.- talking about scientific facts, general truths and events that do not change: Water freezes at 0°C. Bronze is an alloy, consisting primarily of copper. Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. An aurora /ə,ɔːrə/ (sometimes referred to as polar lights) is a natural light display in the Earth's sky, predominantly seen in the high latitude regions.- talking about wants / needs / likes: Q: Do you want a receipt? A: Yes, thanks.- talking about timetables: The train for Milan leaves at 17:35. The surgery opens at 8:00 a.m.- facts known about the future such as scheduled events: June 2 is a national holiday in Italy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- talking to describe activities in progress right now, at the time of speaking: The network is not working – the ICT [Information and Communication Technology] department are trying to remove a virus. The surgeon is performing an operation.- talking to describe activities in progress now, but not at this exact moment: I am reading a book about James Watson and Francis Crick – most noted for being co-discoverers of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953.- talking to describe trends and developments in progress over a longer period of time: The problem of global warming is getting worse. People are living longer and longer thanks to medical advances.- present plans for the future: Q: When are you leaving? A: I am leaving Boston on Friday.

Present Simple	Present Continuous
<p>- is used with frequency adverbs or expressions of time such as:</p> <p>always / often / sometimes / hardly ever / never / from time to time / most of the time / ...</p> <p>yearly / half yearly / quarterly / monthly / weekly / daily / ...</p> <p>every year / once a month / twice a week / three times a day / ...</p>	<p>- is used with adverbs or expression of time such as:</p> <p>at the moment / at present / presently [\$] / currently / right now / nowadays / these days / this week / ...</p>
<p>- there are a number of verbs that describe states. A 'state' is a condition, not an action. Such kinds of verb are used mainly in the simple present and include:</p> <p>thinking: to agree / to believe / to doubt / to forget / to imagine / to know / to realise / to recognise / to regret / to remember / to suppose / to think / to understand;</p> <p>liking and disliking: to admire / to appreciate / to dislike / to hate / to like / to love / to want / to wish;</p> <p>possession: to belong to / to contain / to have / to include / to own / to possess;</p> <p>appearance: to appear / to look like / to resemble / to seem / to sound;</p> <p>being: to be / to consist of / to depend on / to exist;</p> <p>the senses: to hear / to see / to smell / to taste;</p> <p>miscellaneous: to cost / to involve / to matter / to mean / to measure / to weigh.</p>	



Please remember that:

The **present simple** refers to an action/event which the speaker/writer sees as a **permanent situation** – such as in:



- **an unlimited period:** e.g. Where **do** you **come** from? // Where **are** you from?
- **something always true:** e.g. Water **boils** at 100°C. // The River Thames **flows** through London.
- **a general statement:** e.g. The journey **takes** about three hours. // Ebola, previously known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, **is** a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus species.

The **present continuous** always refers to an action/event which the speaker/writer sees as a **temporary situation**:

- I usually **drive** to work, but I **am walking** since the weather is so nice.

Sometimes both are possible with different meanings. Please compare the following sentences:

- I **work** in a hospital. **vs** I **am working** in a hospital.
- Where **do** you **live**? **vs** Where **are** you **living**?

Sometimes the objective difference is very small:

- I **am not feeling** very well! **vs** I **do not feel** very well!

A few state verbs – such as *to be*, *to have* and *to think* – can have both an ‘action’ meaning (where a continuous form is possible) and a ‘state’ meaning (where it is not).

- Vaccines **are** a way to prevent certain serious or deadly infections.
- Vaccines **are being** effective.
- I **think** this course is difficult. - I **am thinking** about the exam.
- I **have** a pet hamster. - My colleague **is having** problems with the printer.