

GRAMMAR REVIEW

SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Form: Infinitive (without to) for all persons except the third person singular which ends in *-s*. The verbs ending in *-s*, *-sh*, *-ch*, *-x* and *-o* form their third person singular by adding *-es*:

to echo → *the little finger echoes the horizontal arm of the balance*

to wash → *the light washes across the wall*

The verb *to have* becomes *has* in the third person singular.

The interrogative form uses the auxiliary *do/does* (third person) + subject + infinitive without to:

Do they like Pop Art?

Does he go to the museum often?

The negative form uses the auxiliary *do/does* + *not* + infinitive without to:

We don't like the Impressionists.

She doesn't paint very well.

Function: The Simple Present is very flexible and can be used:

a) to express habitual actions: *He goes to the art gallery every day.*

b) to express general truths and states: *Vermeer transforms seemingly ordinary objects.*

c) to describe a painting, story, film, play or dramatic historic event: *A woman stands alone before a table in the corner.*

d) to express a planned future action: *We leave Venice for Verona tomorrow at ten o'clock.*

Frequency adverbs or adverb phrases are often used with the simple present: *always, often, sometimes, usually, rarely, never, on Tuesdays, twice a year, every week, nowadays, time and again.*

Exercise 4

Put the following sentences in the negative and interrogative:

1) Vermeer's perspective seems photographic.

2) He reproduces some real objects with great precision.

3) He renders certain passages "out of focus".

4) He has a cubicle-type camera.

5) He traces projected images.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Form: The auxiliary of the verb *to be* + the present participle: *He is painting.*

The negative is formed with the auxiliary + *not* + the present participle: *He isn't drawing.*

The interrogative is obtained with the inversion of the subject and auxiliary: *Is he sketching?*

Function: The Present Continuous is used:

- a) for an activity happening now, emphasising duration:
He is describing the printing process.
- b) for an activity happening around the present time, but not necessarily 'now':
They are restoring the chapel.
- c) for a future arrangement with a future time expression:
We are starting the course next week.

Frequency adverbs are not usually used with the Present Continuous, unless with use of *always* to indicate irritation:

He is always painting the same stupid picture.

STATE AND DYNAMIC VERBS

State verbs are normally only used in the simple tense. These are:

Verbs of mental states (*believe, know, recognise etc.*)

Verbs of perception (*feel, hear, see etc.*)

Verbs of emotion (*like, hate, want etc.*)

Verbs of being/having (*appear, seem, belong etc.*)

Some state verbs can have a dynamic meaning:

He has a studio. (own) He is having a bath. (washing)

Exercise 5

Choose the correct form of the verb, Simple Present or Present Continuous.

- 1) At the moment *he frames / he is framing* the picture.
- 2) He *wants / is wanting* to clarify the problem.
- 3) Leonardo *is / is being* Verrocchio's only left-handed assistant.
- 4) Jane *is / is being* very nice today - I wonder why?
- 5) Tempera paint *dries / is drying* almost immediately.
- 6) The portrait *looks / is looking* like a picture by Ingres.
- 7) The gallery *shows / is showing* van Eyck tomorrow.
- 8) They *create / are creating* a new art centre.

PRESENT TIME EXPRESSIONS

At present	<i>The guide is not here at present.</i>
Now	<i>What is he doing now?</i>
Today	<i>There have been few visitors today.</i>
Nowadays	<i>Nowadays people have to pay to see the picture.</i>
The present day	<i>The book starts from the past to the present day.</i>
These days	<i>Conservation is highly specialised these days.</i>
In this day and age	<i>People are ignorant even in this day and age.</i>
At once, straight away	<i>I must go at once or I'll miss the lecture.</i>
As time goes by	<i>His technique improves as time goes by.</i>
While	<i>He is listening to music while he is drawing.</i>

FURTHER READING**EDWARD BURNE-JONES - AN ESCAPIST'S DREAMWORLD**

Burne-Jones was an amazingly proficient craftsman, a one-man guild, fecund in painting, book design, tapestry, embroidery, stained glass, tiles and mosaic. He had little formal art training and always felt insecure about his figure drawing. What fired him as an artist was his early, deep and long-lasting friendship with William Morris, whom he met at Oxford in the 1850s, when both were new undergraduates. They had meant to go into the