

Total English

Pre-intermediate

Present Simple or Continuous?

- 1 Choose the correct alternative(s) in the sentences 1-8 below.
 - 1 Today she *'s spending/spends* time with her grandmother.
 - 2 They usually *are going/go* to the gym on Sundays.
 - 3 We *'re having/have* a barbecue later on. Do you want to come?
 - 4 No, she can't answer the phone, she *has/is* having a shower.
 - 5 I always *have/am having* a coffee before I *'m leaving/leave* for work in the morning.
 - 6 They sometimes *fly/are flying* to Sweden, but usually they *are going/go* by boat.
 - 7 Where are you? I *'m sitting/sit* outside in the sunshine!
 - 8 He always *brings/is bringing* a monolingual dictionary to his English class.

- 2 Look at everyone and everything in your English class. Write four sentences to describe anything that is happening now using the present continuous. The sentences can be about the students/their personalities/ the activities you're doing/what someone is wearing, saying or doing.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 3 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 4 _____ |

- 3 Write four sentences to describe anything that usually or sometimes happens in the class using the present simple.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 3 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 4 _____ |



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TEACHER'S NOTES:

Aim: to consolidate the use of Present Simple and Present Continuous. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 1.3.

Time: 40 minutes maximum

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student.

- 1 Tell students they have to choose the correct option. If necessary do the first one with them as an example.

Answers: 1 she's spending 2 go 3 We're having 4 she's having
5 have 6 fly/go 7 I'm sitting 8 brings

- 2 Encourage students to observe what is happening around them by asking them to describe what people are doing etc. Go around the class monitoring carefully to make sure students are writing full sentences and correct if necessary. Elicit answers from various students and use these to help students think about now, what is happening and maybe what usually happens and the related tenses.

Sample answers: Mina is using her dictionary. Jane is writing in her book. Our teacher is helping us. Some of the students are talking in English. Tom is wearing a pullover because it's cold.

- 3 This is a continuation of Ex. 2 - getting students to think about now, what is happening and maybe what usually happens. Ask students to compare their sentences and to correct each others if necessary. Get feedback from various students.

Sample answers: Our teacher always speaks in English. We usually do a speaking and a listening activity. We usually use the course book. Sometime we use the computers.

