Present Simple vs Present Continuous — Worksheet

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30 exercises · Level A1–A2 · Answer key on the last page Free for classroom use

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Choose the correct option (a–d) for each gap or question. Check yourself with the answer key on the last page.

1. My dad usually _____ to work, but this week he's taking the train.
   a) is driving b) drives c) drive d) driving

2. Shh! I _____ to the news on the radio.
   a) listen b) listens c) am listening d) listening

3. We _____ pizza every Friday night — it's a family tradition.
   a) are having b) has c) having d) have

4. Look at Max! He _____ a funny hat.
   a) is wearing b) wears c) wear d) wearing

5. How often _____ you _____ your car?
   a) does … wash b) do … wash c) do … washing d) is … wash

6. I _____ dinner. Can I call you back in twenty minutes?
   a) cook b) cooks c) am cooking d) cooking

7. Ana _____ three languages: Spanish, English and German.
   a) speaks b) is speaking c) speak d) speaking

8. Who _____ that girl _____ to over there? Do you know her?
   a) does … talk b) is … talk c) are … talking d) is … talking

9. It _____ a lot in Scotland, especially in autumn.
   a) rains b) is raining c) rain d) raining

10. Why _____ you _____? Did something happen?
    a) do … cry b) are … cry c) are … crying d) is … crying

11. My grandparents _____ in a small village. They've never lived anywhere else.
    a) are living b) live c) lives d) living

12. I _____ with a friend until the builders finish my kitchen.
    a) stay b) stays c) staying d) am staying

13. Kate normally works in Paris, but this month she _____ in our London office.
    a) is working b) works c) work d) working

14. This road _____ straight to the city centre.
a) is leading b) leads c) lead d) leading

15. I _____ about selling my car. What's your opinion?
a) think b) thinks c) am thinking d) thinking

16. Dad can't come to the phone right now — he _____ breakfast.
a) has b) have c) having d) is having

17. This suitcase _____ a lot. What's in it?
a) weighs b) is weighing c) weigh d) weighing

18. The doctor _____ a patient at the moment. Please take a seat.
a) sees b) see c) seeing d) is seeing

19. Oh, I _____ what you mean now. Thanks for explaining it again.
a) see b) am seeing c) sees d) seeing

20. We _____ more milk — there's none left in the fridge.
a) are needing b) needs c) needing d) need

21. I usually _____ tea in the morning, but right now I _____ a coffee.
a) am drinking … drink b) drink … drink c) drink … am drinking d) drinking … drink

22. She _____ in a bank, but at the moment she _____ a course in Madrid.
a) is working … takes b) works … is taking c) works … takes d) is working … is taking

23. "What _____ you _____?" "I'm a nurse at the city hospital."
a) are … doing b) does … do c) do … doing d) do … do

24. "What _____ you _____?" "I'm writing an email to my landlord."
a) do … do b) is … doing c) are … doing d) are … do

25. Ben _____ football every weekend, but he _____ this weekend because he's ill.
a) is playing … doesn't play b) plays … isn't playing c) plays … doesn't play d) is playing … isn't playing

26. Which sentence is correct?
a) I am not believing his story.
b) I don't believe his story.
c) I not believe his story.
d) I doesn't believe his story.

27. Which sentence states a scientific fact correctly?
a) The Earth is going around the Sun.
b) The Earth go around the Sun.
c) The Earth goes around the Sun.
d) The Earth going around the Sun.

28. Which question is correct?
a) Why do you laugh? What's so funny?
b) Why are you laugh? What's so funny?
c) Why you are laughing? What's so funny?
d) Why are you laughing? What's so funny?

29. Which sentence is correct?
a) She has two brothers and a sister.
b) She's having two brothers and a sister.
c) She have two brothers and a sister.
d) She is have two brothers and a sister.

30. Which sentence is correct?
a) My brother is not liking vegetables.
b) My brother doesn't like vegetables.
c) My brother don't like vegetables.
d) My brother doesn't likes vegetables.

Answer Key

Present Simple vs Present Continuous · Explanations are shortened — the full interactive version is at gramvoy.com/exercises/present-simple-vs-present-continuous/

1. b) drives
Usually describes his normal routine, so the present simple drives.

2. c) am listening
Shh!

3. d) have
Every Friday night and a family tradition describe a permanent routine,…

4. a) is wearing
Look at Max!

5. b) do … wash
How often asks about a habit, so the present simple question: How often…

6. c) am cooking
Can I call you back?

7. a) speaks
Knowing a language is a permanent ability, not something in progress,…

8. d) is … talking
That girl … over there is someone you can see talking at this moment,…

9. a) rains
This is a general fact about the climate, so the present simple: it…

10. c) are … crying
The question is about tears right now, so the present continuous: Why…

11. b) live
They've never lived anywhere else shows a permanent situation, so the…

12. d) am staying
Until the builders finish shows the situation is temporary, so the…

13. a) is working
This month marks a temporary change from her normal job in Paris, so…

14. b) leads
Where a road goes is a permanent fact, so the present simple: this road…

15. c) am thinking
Think about means 'consider' — an activity going on now — so it can…

16. d) is having
Have breakfast means 'eat' — an activity, not possession — and right…

17. a) weighs
Weigh here describes how heavy the suitcase is — a state — so the…

18. d) is seeing
Here see means 'meet, examine' — an action — and at the moment shows it…

19. a) see
I see here means 'I understand' — a state — so the present simple, even…

20. d) need
Need is a state verb, so it stays in the present simple even about now:…

21. c) drink … am drinking
Usually is a routine, so drink; right now is this moment, so am…

22. b) works … is taking
Her job is permanent, so works; the course is temporary — at the moment…

23. d) do … do
What do you do?

24. c) are … doing
The answer I'm writing an email describes this moment, so the question…

25. b) plays … isn't playing
Every weekend is his routine, so plays.

26. b) I don't believe his story.
Believe is a state verb, so it takes the present simple: I don't…

27. c) The Earth goes around the Sun.
A scientific fact is always true, so the present simple: The Earth goes…

28. d) Why are you laughing? What's so funny?
What's so funny?

29. a) She has two brothers and a sister.
Have for family and possession is a state, so it stays in the present…

30. b) My brother doesn't like vegetables.
Like is a state verb, so the present simple: doesn't like.