



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

T1

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<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

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Present Time:

A. Present simple or present continuous.

B. Use of adverbials.

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D. Present simple or present continuous.

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F. Correct the errors.

G. Fill the blank with an appropriate word.

A. Present simple or present continuous

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

1. I haven't decided yet about whether to buy a new car or a second-hand one. But I think / I'm thinking about it.
2. All right, you try to fix the television! But I hope / I'm hoping you know what you're doing.
3. Every year I visit / I'm visiting Britain to improve my English.
4. It's time we turned on the central heating. It gets / It's getting colder every day.
5. Of course, you're Mary, aren't you! I recognise / I am recognising you now.
6. The film of 'War and Peace' is very long. It lasts / It is lasting over four hours.
7. I can see from what you say that your mornings are very busy! But what do you do / are you doing in the afternoons?
8. I'm going to buy a new swimming costume. My old one doesn't fit / isn't fitting any more,
9. That must be the end of the first part of the performance. What happens / is happening now?
10. What's the matter? Why do you look / are you looking at me like that?

B. Use of adverbials

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

1. I work in this office **all this year** / **all the time**.
2. Emerson is **currently** / **for long** top of the driver's league.
3. I am not making much money **these days** / **so far this year**.
4. The food tastes even worse **now** / **presently**. You've put too much salt in.
5. **Normally** / **previously** we get in touch with customers by post.
6. Pete was ill but he is getting over his illness **soon** / **now**.
7. I'm feeling rather run down **lately** / **at present**, doctor,
8. I always stay on duty **since** / **until** six o'clock.
9. I'm **often** / **forever** picking your hairs out of the bath!
10. Fortunately the baby **now** / **recently** sleeps all night.

C. Put each verb in brackets into the present simple or present continuous.

1. (hear) that you have been promoted. Congratulations!
2. British people (drink) more and more wine, apparently.
3. I hope Saki will be here soon. I (depend) on her.
4. Please be quiet, David. You (forever/interrupt).
5. Hey, you! What (you/think) you're doing?
6. Could you come here please? I (want) to talk to you now.
7. Jamna is away on holiday so Ganga (handle) her work.
8. To be honest, I (doubt) whether Jim will be here next week.
9. You've only just started the job, haven't you? How (you/get on)?
10. Pay no attention to Shinda. He (just/be) sarcastic.

D. Put each verb in brackets into the present simple or present continuous.

I work in a large office with about thirty other people, most of whom I (1) (know) quite well. We (2) (spend) most of the day together, so we have all become friends. In fact, most of my colleagues are so interesting, that I (3) (think) of writing a book about them!

(4) (take) Helen Watson, for example. Helen (5) (run) the accounts department. At the moment she (6) (go out) with Keith Ballantine, one of the sales representatives, and they (7) (seem) very happy together. But everyone — except Helen apparently — (8) (know) that Keith (9) (fancy) Susan Porter. But I (10) (happen) to know that Susan (11) (dislike) Keith. “I can't stand people who never (12) (stop) apologising all the time!” she told me. And besides, I know he (13) (deceive) poor Helen. He (14) (see) Betty Wills from the overseas department. And plenty of other interesting things (15) (currently/go on). For instance, every week we (16) (experience) more and more problems with theft - personal belongings and even money have been stolen. When you (17) (realise) that someone in your office is a thief, it (18) (upset) you at first. But I (19) (also/try) to catch whoever it is before the police are called in. I'm not going to tell you who I (20) (suspect). Well, not yet anyway!

E. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using one of the words in bold. Do not change the word in bold.

1. Charan and his father are exactly alike in appearance.

looks / looking

Charan his father.

2. Take all your possessions and walk slowly to the exit.

belongs / belonging

Take everything and walk slowly to the exit.

3. I'm finding it really enjoyable to work here.

enjoy / enjoying

I here.

4. I take work home regularly because of my new responsibility at work.

means / meaning

My new responsibility at work work home regularly.

5. In my cycling group there's George, Tom, Harry and me.

consists / consisting

My George, Tom, Harry and me.

6. In your opinion, who's going to win the Cup?

think / thinking

Who do win the Cup?

7. I'm seeing how wide the door is.

measure / measuring

I the door.

8. Neil always forgets his wife's birthday.

remembers / remembering

Neil his wife's birthday.

9. Its ability to catch fish is the key to the polar bear's survival.

depends / depending

The polar bear's to catch fish.

10. What's on your mind at the moment?

think / thinking

What at the moment?

F. Most of these sentences contain an error. Where there is an error, rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. I'm depending on you, so don't make any mistakes!

2. Is this total including the new students?

3. Excuse me, but do you wait for somebody?

4. These potatoes are tasting a bit funny.

5. How are you feeling today?

6. I look forward to hearing from you.

7. I have a feeling that something goes wrong.

8. What's that you're eating?

9. Are you hearing anything from Reeta these days?

10. I think you're being rather mean about this.

G. Complete the expressions using the words from the box.

coming	making	trying	asking	taking	shooting
talking	listening				

1. I'm to concentrate.
2. Are you off now, or can we talk?
3. Go on, I'm
4. I think we'reat cross purposes.
5. You're for trouble.
6. It's along nicely.
7. You don't seem to be much interest.
8. You're a fuss about nothing.

Which expression means one of the following?

- a) Are you in a hurry to leave?
- b) We're talking about different things without realising it.
- c) If you say or do this you will get into difficulties.

Answers

A. Present simple or present continuous

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

1. I haven't decided yet about whether to buy a new car or a second-hand one. But **I'm thinking** about it.
2. All right, you try to fix the television! But **I hope** you know what you're doing.
3. Every year **I visit** Britain to improve my English.
4. It's time we turned on the central heating. **It's getting** colder every day.
5. Of course, you're Mary, aren't you! **I recognise** you now.
6. The film of 'War and Peace' is very long. **It lasts** over four hours.
7. I can see from what you say that your mornings are very busy! But **what do you do** in the afternoons?
8. I'm going to buy a new swimming costume. My old one **doesn't fit** any more,
9. That must be the end of the first part of the performance. **What happens** now?
10. What's the matter? Why **are you looking** at me like that?

B. Use of adverbs

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

1. I work in this office **all the time**.
2. Emerson is **currently** top of the driver's league.
3. I am not making much money **these days**.
4. The food tastes even worse **now**. You've put too much salt in.
5. **Normally** we get in touch with customers by post.
6. Pete was ill but he is getting over his illness **now**.
7. I'm feeling rather run down **at present**, doctor,
8. I always stay on duty **until** six o'clock.
9. I'm **forever** picking your hairs out of the bath!
10. Fortunately the baby **now** sleeps all night.

C. Put each verb in brackets into the present simple or present continuous.

1. **I here** that you have been promoted. Congratulations!
2. British people **more and more** wine, apparently.
3. I hope Saki will be here soon. I **am depending** on her.
4. Please be quiet, David. You **are forever interrupting**.
5. Hey, you! What **do you think** you're doing?
6. Could you come here please? I **want** to talk to you now.
7. Jamna is away on holiday so Ganga **is handling** her work.
8. To be honest, I **doubt** whether Jim will be here next week.
9. You've only just started the job, haven't you? How **are you getting on**?
10. Pay no attention to Shinda. He **is just being** sarcastic.

D. Put each verb in brackets into the present simple or present continuous.

I work in a large office with about thirty other people, most of whom I **know** quite well. We **spend** most of the day together, so we have all become friends. In fact, most of my colleagues are so interesting, that I **am thinking** of writing a book about them!

Take Helen Watson, for example. Helen **runs** the accounts department. At the moment she **is going out** with Keith Ballantine, one of the sales representatives, and they **seem** very happy together. But everyone — except Helen apparently — **knows** that Keith **fancies** Susan Porter. But I **happen** to know that Susan **dislikes** Keith. “I can't stand people who never **stop** apologising all the time!” she told me. And besides, I know he **is deceiving** poor Helen. He **is seeing** Betty Wills from the overseas department. And plenty of other interesting things **are currently going on**. For instance, every week we **are experiencing** more and more problems with theft - personal belongings and even money have been stolen. When you **realise** that someone in your office is a thief, it **upsets** you at first. But I **am also trying** to catch whoever it is before the police are called in. I'm not going to tell you who I **suspect**. Well, not yet anyway!

E. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using one of the words in bold. Do not change the word in bold.

1. Charan and his father are exactly alike in appearance.

looks / looking

Charan **looks exactly like** his father.

2. Take all your possessions and walk slowly to the exit.

belongs / belonging

Take everything **that belongs to you** and walk slowly to the exit.

3. I'm finding it really enjoyable to work here.

enjoy / enjoying

I **am really enjoying working** here.

4. I take work home regularly because of my new responsibility at work.

means / meaning

My new responsibility at work **means I take** work home regularly.

5. In my cycling group there's George, Tom, Harry and me.

consists / consisting

My **cycling group consists of** George, Tom, Harry and me.

6. In your opinion, who's going to win the Cup?

think / thinking

Who do **you think is going to** win the Cup?

7. I'm seeing how wide the door is.

measure / measuring

I **am measuring (the width of)** the door.

8. Neil always forgets his wife's birthday.

remembers / remembering

Neil **never remembers** his wife's birthday.

9. Its ability to catch fish is the key to the polar bear's survival.

depends / depending

The polar bear's **survival depends on its ability** to catch fish.

10. What's on your mind at the moment?

think / thinking

What **are you thinking about** at the moment?

F. Most of these sentences contain an error. Where there is an error, rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. I'm depending on you, so don't make any mistakes! **(No error)**

2. **Does this total include** the new students?

3. Excuse me, **are you waiting** for somebody?

4. These potatoes are **taste** a bit funny.

5. How are you feeling today? **(No error)**

You can also say: How do you feel today?

6. I look forward to hearing from you. **(No error)**

7. I have a feeling that something **is going wrong**.

You can also say: I have a feeling that something is wrong.

8. What's that you're eating? **(No error)**

9. **Do you hear** anything from Reeta these days?

10. I think you're being rather mean about this. **(No error)**

G. Complete the expressions using the words from the box.

coming	making	trying	asking	taking	shooting
talking	listening				

1. I'm **trying** to concentrate.
2. Are you **shooting** off now, or can we talk?
3. Go on, I'm **listening**.
4. I think we're **talking** at cross purposes.
5. You're **asking** for trouble.
6. It's **coming** along nicely.
7. You don't seem to be **taking** much interest.
8. You're **making** a fuss about nothing.

Which expression means one of the following?

- a) Are you in a hurry to leave?

Answer is 2.

- b) We're talking about different things without realising it.

Answer is 4.

- c) If you say or do this you will get into difficulties.

Answer is 5.