



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate Grammar

**Adapted and modified by**

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## **Anna's English Journey by K S Sandhu**

Anna is a young woman from Poland. She lives in London now because she wants to improve her English and find a better job. Next month she starts work in a big company, so she studies hard every day.

Every morning, Anna wakes up at 7 o'clock. She drinks coffee, eats breakfast, and goes to her English class. The teacher explains grammar rules. Today the lesson is about present simple and present continuous.

The teacher says: "We use present simple for habits, general facts, and things that are always or usually true. For example: Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. The moon goes round the earth. People speak different languages in the world. I live in London – that's a fact."

Then the teacher adds: "We use present continuous for things happening right now or around now, temporary situations. For example: Look outside! It is raining. Anna is studying English this month. Her friend is visiting London these days."

Anna listens carefully and writes examples in her notebook. She likes the lesson because it helps her understand her mistakes.

After class, Anna meets her friend Marco in a small café. Marco is from Italy. He works in a restaurant near the station.

"Hi Anna! What are you doing here?" asks Marco.

"I am having coffee with you!" Anna laughs. "But really, I am learning English. Today my teacher is explaining present tenses."

Marco smiles. "Good! I speak English every day at work, but I make mistakes. Customers always ask: 'What do you do?' I say 'I am waiter,' but it is better to say 'I work as a waiter.'"

Anna nods. "Yes, present simple for jobs and routines. My father teaches me to drive when I go home to Poland. He says: 'You drive too fast!' But right now I am not driving – I am sitting here."

Marco laughs. "And your keys? You are always losing your keys!"

Anna looks embarrassed. "Oh no, not again! You are right. I lose them every week. It is a bad habit."

Suddenly Anna's phone rings. It is her mother.

“Hi Mum! How are you?”

“I am fine. What are you doing?”

“I am in a café with Marco. We are talking about English grammar.”

Her mother laughs. “Good! Your brother is playing football now – he plays every Saturday. And your father is fixing the car. He fixes everything at home.”

After the call, Marco says: “My boss complains a lot because the customers complain. They say: ‘The food is cold!’ But today the restaurant is working well. I think things are getting better.”

Anna agrees. “My English is improving slowly too. I feel more confident.”

Later, Anna walks home. It is getting dark. She thinks about the lesson and repeats quietly:

“Water boils at 100 degrees. Birds fly south in winter. I am learning English. My father is teaching me to drive. Right now I am walking home.”

At home, Anna opens her book. She sees an exercise: “I (learn) to drive. My father (teach) me.”

She writes: “I am learning to drive. My father is teaching me.”

Then she reads: “You are always losing your keys.”

She laughs. “Yes, that’s me!”

Anna closes the book. She feels tired but happy. Tomorrow is another day to practise.

Unit  
3

# Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

**A** Compare:

*present continuous (I am doing)*

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not complete.



- The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- 'I'm busy.' 'What **are you doing**?'
- I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

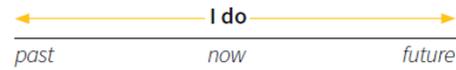
We use the continuous for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: You're **working** hard today.  
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

*present simple (I do)*

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.



- Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, **do you speak** English?
- It **doesn't rain** very much in summer.
- What **do you usually do** at weekends?
- I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

**B** I always do and I'm always doing

I **always do** something = I do it every time:

- I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

I'm **always doing** something = I do it too often or more often than normal.

For example:



I'm **always losing** them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

- Paul is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= he complains too much)
- You're **always looking** at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

## Exercises

### 3.1 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. OK
- 2 How often are you going to the cinema? do you go
- 3 Ben tries to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet. .....
- 4 Martina is phoning her mother every day. .....
- 5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days. .....
- 6 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? .....
- 7 What do you do in your spare time? .....
- 8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She doesn't eat meat. .....
- 9 I must go now. It gets late. .....
- 10 'Come on! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.' .....
- 11 Paul is never late. He's always starting work on time. .....
- 12 They don't get on well. They're always arguing. .....

### 3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 a I usually get (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.
- b I'm getting (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.
- 2 a '..... (you / listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'
- b '..... (you / listen) to the radio a lot?' 'No, not very often.'
- 3 a The River Nile..... (flow) into the Mediterranean.
- b The river..... (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.
- 4 a I'm not very active. .... (I / not / do) any sport.
- b What..... (you / usually / do) at weekends?
- 5 a Rachel is in New York right now. .... (She / stay) at the Park Hotel.
- b ..... (She / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

### 3.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Why are all these people here? What's happening (What / happen)?
- 2 Julia is good at languages. .... (She / speak) four languages very well.
- 3 Are you ready yet? ..... (Everybody / wait) for you.
- 4 I've never heard this word. How ..... (you / pronounce) it?
- 5 Kate ..... (not / work) this week. She's on holiday.
- 6 I think my English ..... (improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
- 7 Nicola ..... (live) in Manchester. She has never lived anywhere else.
- 8 Can we stop walking soon? ..... (I / start) to get tired.
- 9 Sam and Tina are in Madrid right now. .... (They / visit) a friend of theirs.
- 10 'What ..... (your father / do)?' 'He's an architect.'
- 11 It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days .....  
(it / not / take) so long.
- 12 I ..... (I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My father  
..... (teach) me.

### 3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use **always -ing**.

- 1 A: I've lost my keys again.  
   B: Not again! You're always losing your keys
- 2 A: The car has broken down again.  
   B: That car is useless. It.....
- 3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.  
   B: Oh no, not again! I.....
- 4 A: Oh, I've left my phone at home again.  
   B: Typical! .....

## Answers

### UNIT 3

#### 3.1

- 3 is trying
- 4 phones
- 5 OK
- 6 are they talking
- 7 OK
- 8 OK
- 9 It's getting / It is getting
- 10 I'm coming / I am coming
- 11 He always starts
- 12 OK

#### 3.2

- 2 a Are you listening  
b Do you listen
- 3 a flows  
b is flowing / 's flowing
- 4 a I don't do  
b do you usually do
- 5 a She's staying / She is staying  
b She always stays

#### 3.3

- 2 She speaks
- 3 Everybody's waiting / Everybody is waiting
- 4 do you pronounce
- 5 isn't working / is not working / 's not working
- 6 is improving
- 7 lives
- 8 I'm starting / I am starting
- 9 They're visiting / They are visiting
- 10 does your father do
- 11 it doesn't take
- 12 I'm learning / I am learning ...  
is teaching / 's teaching

#### 3.4

- 2 It's always breaking down.
- 3 I'm always making the same mistake. / ... that mistake.
- 4 You're always leaving your phone at home.