

Present simple or present continuous: every day and now

I read every day, but I am playing now. The present simple describes a routine; the present continuous describes an action happening around the time of speaking. Choose the tense from the meaning of the situation.

Anglais 1AC - Supplementary practice - Updated 27/10/2026

Learning goals

- Choose the tense from the situation
- Routines, actions now and ing spelling
- Read the time clue without ignoring the meaning

1. What is the difference between present simple and present continuous?

Use the present simple for a routine: She reads every evening. Use the present continuous for an action happening now: She is reading now. The continuous needs both a form of be and an ing verb. Compare Does she read? with Is she reading?



Use the simple for routines and repeated actions.

2. Choose the tense from the situation

Form the continuous with am, is or are and a verb ending in ing: She is reading. Make negatives with not after be: She isn't reading. For a question, move be: Is she reading? A routine uses the simple: She reads after school.

Most verbs add ing: read becomes reading. Drop a final silent e: write becomes writing. In a short stressed consonant-vowel-consonant verb, double the final consonant: run becomes running. Everyday expressions can guide you, but read the whole sentence: every Monday suggests a routine, whereas Look! often introduces something happening now.

3. Routines, actions now and ing spelling

Meaning	Statement	Question or spelling
Every day	She walks to school.	Does she walk?
Now	She is walking home.	Is she walking?
Spell the ing form	play → playing; write → writing	run → running

4. Compare an ordinary Saturday with today

Every day	Now
 She reads.	 She is reading.
 Does she read?	 Is she reading?

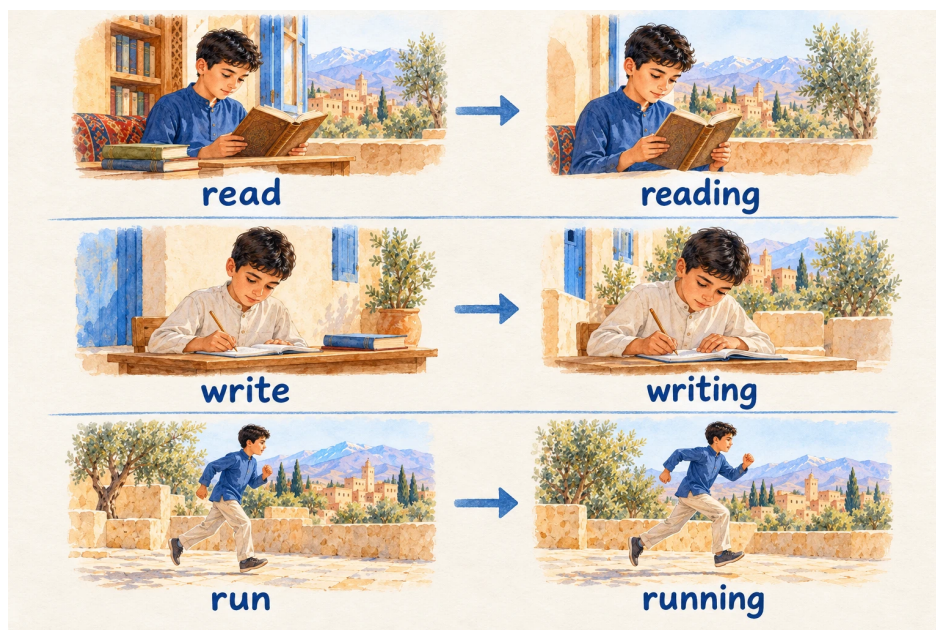
Use be + ing for an action happening now.

Read and explain this example

On Saturdays, Lina usually plays chess. Today she is visiting her cousin. They aren't playing chess now. They are making a card. Does Lina like art? Yes, she does.

5. Read the time clue without ignoring the meaning

The same person can have a routine and do something different today. Lina usually plays chess on Saturday, but today she is making a card. Usually describes the repeated habit; today introduces the current exception. Do not choose a tense merely because you see a familiar word: first ask what the speaker means. For beginner sentences with like and want, keep the simple form: I like this activity; I want a drink.



Ask Does she play? but Is she playing?

Check this

Keep be in the continuous: She is reading, not She reading. For simple beginner statements with like and want, use the simple: I like this book; I want a drink.

Put the idea into practice

1. Ask whether the sentence describes a habit or an action around now.
2. Choose a complete structure: simple verb or be plus ing.
3. Make the question with the auxiliary that belongs to that structure.

Remember

- Use the simple for routines and repeated actions.
- Use be + ing for an action happening now.
- Ask Does she play? but Is she playing?

Practice - Try before checking

Answer in your notebook. Use evidence from the examples and check your sentences.

Exercise 1. Choose the tense

Complete: Every day she (walks / is walking). Look! He (runs / is running).

Exercise 2. Spell and negate

Write the ing forms of write and run. Make She is reading negative.

Exercise 3. Compare two moments

Write two routine sentences and two sentences about now.

Exercise 4. Describe the contrast

Omar normally walks to school. Today he is on a bus. Write two sentences and a question about today.

Explained answers

Exercise 1. Choose the tense

Walks; is running. The first is a routine; the second describes the current scene.

Exercise 2. Spell and negate

Writing; running. She isn't reading. Drop e in write, double n in run and add not after is.

Exercise 3. Compare two moments

Example: I study every afternoon. I play on Sunday. Now I am reading. My brother is drawing. Make the time and the tense agree.

Exercise 4. Describe the contrast

Omar usually walks to school. Today he is taking a bus. Is he taking a bus today? The second situation needs is taking, not does taking.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between present simple and present continuous?

Use the present simple for a routine: She reads every evening. Use the present continuous for an action happening now: She is reading now. The continuous needs both a form of be and an ing verb. Compare Does she read? with Is she reading?

Why is She reading now incomplete?

The present continuous requires be as well as an ing verb. Write She is reading now. The word reading alone does not provide the complete tense.

Can I leave out am, is or are before ing?

No. The continuous needs both parts: I am playing, she is playing and they are playing.



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