ILLUSTRATED LESSON - ENGLISH 2AC - SEMESTER 1

Present simple or present continuous?

Use the present simple for habits and general facts, and am, is or are + verb-ing for an action happening now. Compare: Youssef walks to school every day. Today he is taking the bus. This English 2AC lesson helps you choose a tense from the meaning, build questions and avoid the mistakes that often appear in School day exercises.

Moroccan 2AC · Original English practice · Semester 1 - Updated 6 November 2026

By the end of this lesson, you can

- Choose a tense from the situation
- Make affirmative, negative and question forms
- Explain a correction instead of guessing from one keyword

Before you start

Read short English sentences and familiar school vocabulary.

1. Start with the situation

Choose a tense from the situation. Make affirmative, negative and question forms. Explain a correction instead of guessing from one keyword.

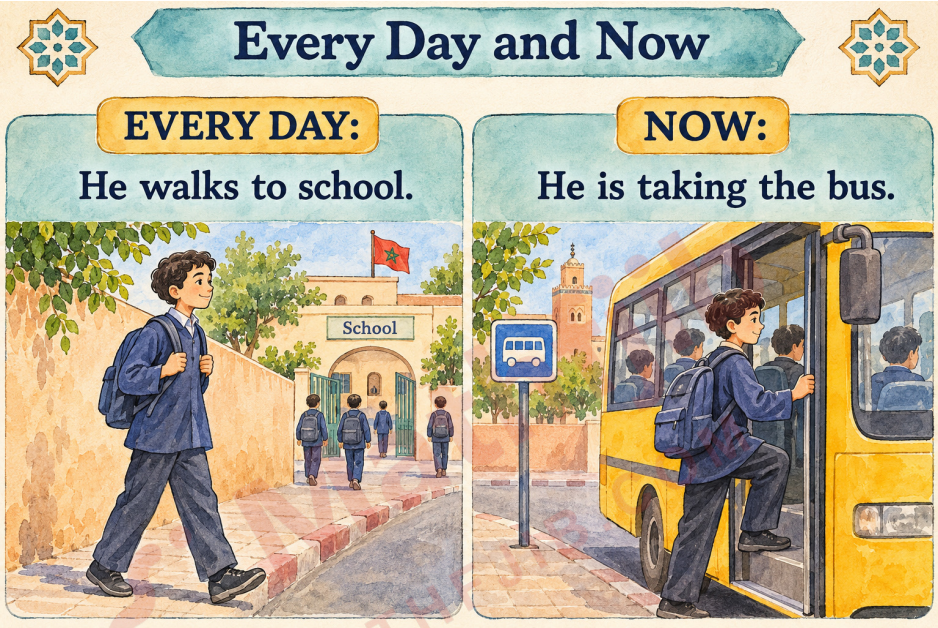


Compare the situation with the examples and explain your choice of form.

2. What changes between a habit and an action now?

A habit repeats. Every morning, on Mondays and usually can help you recognise it: I read before school. A general fact also uses the simple form: A school library lends books. An action in progress is happening around the moment of speaking: I am reading the last page now. A temporary change can use the continuous too: This week we are studying in another room. The important difference is the situation, rather than how long the action lasts.

Picture a pupil describing two journeys. He usually walks with his cousin, so he says We walk to school. This morning it is raining and they are on a bus, so he says We are taking the bus today. Both statements can be true. The first describes their normal routine; the second describes this particular morning.



Habits and general facts use the present simple. An action now uses am/is/are + verb-ing.

3. How do you build the two tenses?

With I, you, we and they, use the base verb in a simple statement. With he, she or it, add s or the appropriate spelling ending: plays, watches, studies. For negatives and questions, use do or does + the base verb: He does not study art. Does he study English? The s belongs to does, so the following verb stays study.

For the continuous, choose am, is or are from the subject, then add the ing form: I am writing; he is reading; they are sitting. Make a negative by adding not after be. Make a question by moving be before the subject: Are they sitting? Drop the final silent e in writing, and double the last consonant in running. Do not leave out be: He reading is incomplete.

Purpose	Present simple	Present continuous
Statement	He reads every day.	He is reading now.
Negative	He does not read at break.	He is not reading now.
Question	Does he read at break?	Is he reading now?

A normal day and a change

I usually study in the library. Today the library is closed, so I am studying at home. My brother studies maths on Tuesdays. At the moment he is drawing a map.

- Usually study and studies describe routines. Am studying and is drawing describe the current situations.

4. Can a time word always tell you the answer?

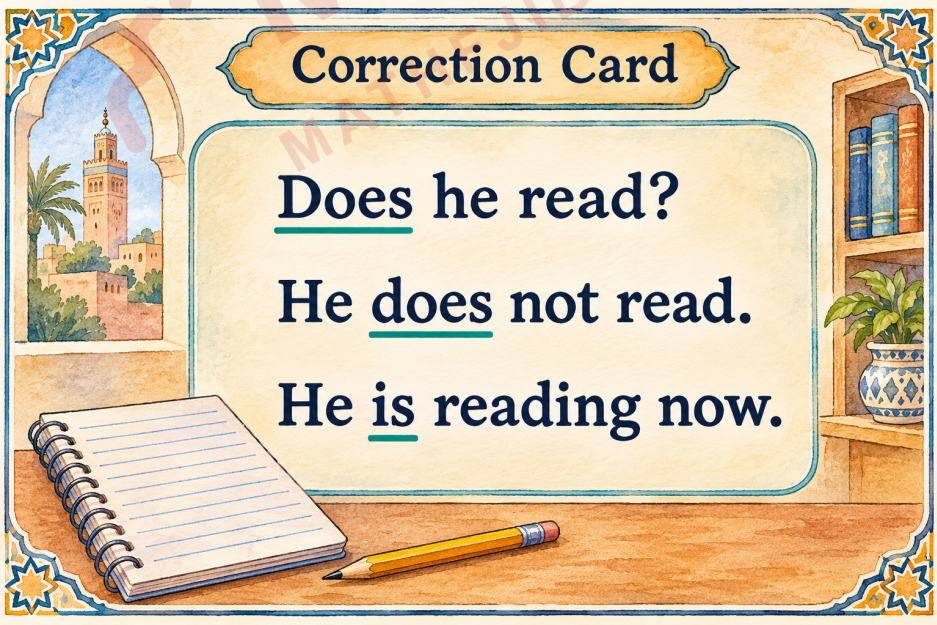
A time expression is a useful clue, but read the whole sentence. I know the answer now uses the simple because know describes a state here. I like English is natural; I am liking English is not the form to use for an ordinary preference in this exercise. Likewise, every day tells you about repetition, but you must still choose the correct subject and verb form.

When you check your answer, ask three questions. Is this a habit, a state or an action in progress? Which subject controls the verb? Does my question or negative already contain an auxiliary? This small routine prevents both She does not walks and Is she walks. Read the corrected sentence aloud to notice whether it has a complete verb group.

5. A method you can reuse

Step by step: Work step by step

1. Decide whether the situation repeats or is happening now.
2. Choose the simple form or be + ing.
3. Check the subject and any auxiliary.
4. Read the complete sentence to check its meaning.



Does and does not are followed by the base verb. Meaning comes before a keyword.

Remember

After does or does not, use the base verb. For the continuous, keep am, is or are. The forms Does he plays? and He playing are incomplete or incorrect.

Key points

- Habits and general facts use the present simple.
- An action now uses am/is/are + verb-ing.
- Does and does not are followed by the base verb.
- Meaning comes before a keyword.

Exercises - Try before checking

Write your answers in your notebook. Use the lesson and write complete sentences before you read the corrections.

Exercise 1. Choose the tense

Easy

Complete: Every Friday, Anas ... a book. (read) Look! He ... a poster. (make)

Exercise 2. Make a question

Easy

Turn He studies English on Monday into a yes/no question.

Exercise 3. Make a negative

Intermediate

Make negative: The boys are running. Salim walks to school.

Exercise 4. Find the two errors

Intermediate

Correct: Does he reads at break? He writing now.

Exercise 5. Explain a choice

Intermediate

Choose: I know / am knowing the answer now. Explain.

Exercise 6. Write your own contrast

Challenge

Write two connected sentences about your normal school journey and a change today.

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Explained answers to the exercises

Exercise 1. Choose the tense

Anas reads a book. He is making a poster. Every Friday marks a habit; Look directs attention to an action now.

Exercise 2. Make a question

Does he study English on Monday? Does carries the third-person ending, so study has no s.

Exercise 3. Make a negative

The boys are not running. Salim does not walk to school. The first keeps are; the second needs does not and the base verb.

Exercise 4. Find the two errors

Does he read at break? He is writing now. Remove the s after does and add is before writing.

Exercise 5. Explain a choice

I know the answer now. Know describes a state in this sentence, so now does not require the continuous.

Exercise 6. Write your own contrast

One possible answer: I usually walk to school. Today it is raining, so I am taking the bus. Other accurate habits and present changes are possible.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between present simple and continuous in 2AC?

The present simple describes habits or facts: He walks every day. The present continuous describes an action now: He is walking now.

Do I add s after does?

No. Write Does he read? and He does not read. Use reads in an affirmative statement without does: He reads.

Is present progressive the same as present continuous?

Yes. In this lesson, both names refer to am/is/are + verb-ing.

MATHFJIB - English 2AC
Follow your teacher's sequence and instructions.
Find the lesson, the pictures and the activities online.