

school of english

**MAKE THE SWITCH WITH TENSES
SWITCH GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT
MANUAL WITH AUDIO CDs & DVD**

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SWITCH SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

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2.4 | Contrasting the Simple Present and the Present Continuous

Form	
Simple Present Tense	Present Continuous Tense
He sometimes travels in the summer. He doesn't travel in the winter. Does he travel with his daughter? No, he doesn't . How often does he travel ? Why doesn't he travel with his daughter?	He is planning his vacation. He isn't planning his retirement. Is he planning a trip to Hawaii? No, he isn't . Where is he planning to go? Why isn't he planning to retire?
Use	
Examples	Explanation
a. Many people retire at age 65. a. Retirees get Social Security. a. People like to feel useful. b. Jack <i>sometimes</i> feels lonely. b. He <i>rarely</i> watches movies with his daughter. b. Ron volunteers in a library <i>twice a week</i> . b. Judy <i>often</i> travels . c. Grown children live separately from their parents. c. Parents call their grown children before they visit them. c. Some singles belong to a singles group.	Use the simple present tense to talk about: a. a general truth b. a habitual activity c. a custom
a. Jack is visiting a retirement village now. a. We are studying this grammar chart now. b. Judy is meeting a lot of new people at this time. b. She's earning money at her hobby. c. People are living longer these days. c. People are retiring earlier these days.	Use the present continuous tense for: a. an action that is in progress now b. a longer action that is in progress at this general time c. recent trends in society
Compare: a. My parents live in a retirement village. b. My sister is living in a dorm this semester.	a. <i>Live</i> in the simple present shows a person's home. b. <i>Live</i> in the present continuous shows a temporary, short-term residence.
Compare: a. What does she do (for a living)? She's a nurse. b. What is she doing? She's waiting for the bus.	 Sentence (a) asks about a job or profession. It uses the simple present tense. Sentence (b) asks about an activity now. It uses the present continuous tense.



3.2 Track 11: Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous tense of the verb in parentheses (). Check the answers with the listening afterwards.

1.

A: Grandpa volunteers his time. Twice a week he reads (example: read) for blind people.

B: My grandmother _____ (work) part-time in a bookstore. She _____ (love) books. She usually _____ (ride)

her bike to work. She _____ (like) the exercise.

A: Where is she now? _____ (she/work) now?

B: Now she's on vacation. She _____ (sail) in Florida.

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2.

A: Can I borrow your dictionary?

B: I'm sorry. I _____ (use) it now. Where's your dictionary?

A: I never _____ (bring) it to class. It's too heavy.

B: _____ (expect) to use my dictionary all the time?

You _____ (need) an electronic dictionary. It's very light.

3.

A: What _____ (the teacher/say) ?

She _____ (talk) too fast, so I _____ (not understand) her now.

B: I don't know. I _____ (not/listen). I _____ (think) about my girlfriend.

A: I _____ (think) you are a very romantic guy.

B: Yes. I _____ (think) about asking her to marry me.

4.

A: What _____ (you/write)?

B: I _____ (write) a composition about my grandparents. I _____ (love) them very much.

A: _____ (they/live) with you?

B: No, they don't. They live in Pakistan. They _____ (visit) us once a year.

A: _____ (you/ever/send) them e-mail?

B: Sometimes I do. But right now their computer _____ (not/work)"

Anyway, they _____ (prefer) handwritten letters.

A: I do too.

5.

A: Look at that girl. Who is she?

B: She's in my math class. I _____ (know) her pretty well.

A: What _____ (she/wear)?

B: She _____ (wear) a dress and army boots.

A: She _____ (look) strange. (she/always/wear) _____ a dress and army boots?

B: No, not always. Sometimes she _____ (wear) sandals.

And sometimes she _____ (not/wear) any shoes at all.

6.

A: _____ (you/see) that guy over there? Who is he?

B: That's my English teacher.

A: He _____ (wear) jeans and gym shoes. And he _____ (have) an earring in his ear. He _____ (look) like a student.

B: I _____ (know) . Everyone _____ (think) he's a student. But he's a very professional teacher.

A: What level _____ (he/teach)?

B: He teaches level four. But now he _____ (look) for another job because he _____ (not/have) a full-time job here. He _____ (want) to work full-time.

7.

A: What _____ (you/study) this semester?

B: English, math, and biology.

A: _____ (you/do) well in all your courses?

B: I _____ (do) well in English and math. But biology is hard for me. I _____ (need) to drop it.

I _____ (not/understand) the teacher very well

He _____ (talk) too fast for me.

8.

A: What _____ (your mother/do) for a living?

B: She's retired now.

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A: _____ (be) old?

B: No, she's only 58.

A: What _____ (she/do)

B: She does a lot of things. In fact, she _____ (not/have)
any free time at all. She _____ (take) two art courses at the

art center this semester. Right now she _____ (paint) a beautiful picture of me. She also
_____ (volunteer) at a hospital twice a week.

A: That's wonderful A lot of retired people _____ (volunteer) these days.

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13.- ESL LISTENING ACTIVITIES

13.1 Track 1: The Trafalgar Square Christmas tree

Activity 1

What do these adjectives refer to?

famous _____
wonderful _____
special _____
magnificent _____
grand _____
the best _____
not old _____

Activity 2

Answer these questions. Check the answers with the listening script:

- 1.- How many people visit Trafalgar Square in December?
- 2.- When did the Christmas Tree from Norway tradition start?
- 3.- How did this tradition start?
- 4.- How many lights are used on the tree?
- 5.- How tall is the tree?
- 6.- How old is the tree?
- 7.- Who introduced the Christmas tree tradition to Britain?
- 8.- Who or what is the Queen of the Forest?

Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps

Trafalgar Square is one of London's most famous tourist _____, and in December in particular hundreds of thousands of people visit to see the wonderful Christmas tree.

But this is no ordinary tree, it has a long and special _____ which I will tell you about now. It all started back in 1947, when the people of _____ gave a magnificent tree to the people of London as a way to say thank you for the support they had during the Second World War. This tree has become a _____ of the friendship between the two countries and today it is a grand event and Londoners only feel that Christmas has started once the tree _____.

The mayors of Oslo and London attend the ceremony where choirs sing Christmas carols and the 500 vertical white lights on the tree are officially _____ on. The tree stays in the square until just before the twelfth night of Christmas.

The tree itself is usually 20 metres tall and _____ 50 and 60 years old. In November the mayor of London travels to the forest near Oslo, where he _____ the mayor of Oslo and the British ambassador for the official cutting down of the tree. It is usually the best in the forest and is carefully chosen some years in _____. The local people call it 'the queen of the forest'. The tradition of Christmas trees in Britain isn't a very old one. It started in Germany in the 16th century and only _____ over to Britain after Queen Victoria 'imported' the tradition from her home country. Yes, Britain's longest reigning monarch was actually _____. It was after her marriage to Prince Albert that the custom of decorating a pine tree became more popular, as the British people really _____ finding a tree and making the ornaments to hang on it. Nowadays almost every home, shop and _____ in Britain has some type of tree at this time, whether it be natural, artificial or even just a picture of one. However, not many are as big or _____ as the Queen of the Forest!

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