

Lesson Six

GRAMMAR

Present Continuous Tense¹

CONTEXT

Student Life
In the School Cafeteria

LESSON FOCUS

We use the present continuous tense to talk about an action in progress now.

We're *studying* Lesson Six now.

The teacher *is explaining* the grammar now.



¹The present continuous tense is sometimes called the present progressive tense.

Before You Read

1. What are you studying this semester?
2. How many credit hours are you taking?
3. Besides English, are you learning something new?

Read the following letter. Pay special attention to the present continuous verbs.



Student Life

Dear Family,

I'm **writing** you this letter to tell you about my life at college in the U.S. Many new things are **happening**, and I want to tell you all about my life here.

First of all, I'm **living** in a dormitory with an American roommate. His name is Ben Kaplan, and he's from California. He's **majoring** in chemistry. You know, of course, I'm **majoring** in music. Ben and I are very different, but we get along² very well. We speak English all the time, and because of him, my English is **improving**. He's not here right now because he's **studying** for a big test with some friends.

This semester I'm **taking** five courses (18 credit hours). It's hard, but I'm **getting** good grades. I'm **learning** a new instrument—the guitar. It's a lot of fun for me and not very difficult. I'm **meeting** a lot of new people in my classes, students from all over the world.

There's one thing I'm not happy about. The food here in the dorm cafeteria is not very good. It's greasy, and I'm **gaining** weight. Ben and I are **thinking** about getting an apartment for next semester. We want to cook for ourselves and have more freedom.

Thank you for the sweater you sent me. I'm **wearing** it now. It's so cold this week. In fact, it's **snowing** now. It's so strange to see snow. I'm **looking** out my window. Children are **playing** in the snow. They're **making** a snowman and **throwing** snowballs.

I have to finish this letter now. I'm **writing** a term paper³ for my music theory class. Please write soon and tell me what is **happening** with all of you.

I hope you are all well.

Love,
Dan

Did you know...?

Forty-one percent of college students in the U.S. are over 25 years old. (This includes part-time students.)

² When people *get along well*, they have a good relationship.

³ A *term paper* is a paper that students write for class. The student researches a topic. It often takes a student a full semester (or term) to produce this paper.

6.1

The Present Continuous Tense—Forms

Subject	Be	Verb + <i>-ing</i>
I	am	studying.
You We They Jim and Sue	are	reading. learning. practicing. writing.
He She It Jim	is	eating. sitting. sleeping. standing.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- We can make a contraction with the subject pronoun and a form of *be*. Most nouns can also contract with *is*.⁴
Dan's writing a letter. *We're* studying verb tenses.
He's wearing a sweater. *It's* snowing.
- To form the negative, put *not* after the verb *am/is/are*.
Dan *isn't* writing a composition. He's writing a letter.
The children *aren't* playing inside. They're playing in the snow.

EXERCISE 1 Fill in the missing part of each sentence.

EXAMPLES: I ^{'m} _____ writing a letter.

I'm look ^{ing} _____ out my window.

- My roommate and his friend _____ studying.
- I'm learn _____ to play the guitar.
- New things _____ happening.
- I'm meet _____ a lot of new people.
- I _____ major _____ in music.
- My roommate is _____ ing in chemistry.

⁴ See Lesson 1, page 9 for exceptions.

7. I'm _____ a sweater now.
8. Children are _____ ing snowballs.

6.2

The Present Continuous Tense—Uses

Examples	Use
Dan is writing a letter to his family now. It's snowing now.	To show that an action is in progress now, at this moment.
Dan and his roommate are gaining weight. Dan is writing a term paper this semester. He is majoring in music.	To show a long-term action that is in progress. It may not be happening at this exact moment.
He is wearing a sweater. He is sitting near the window.	To describe a state or condition, using the following verbs: <i>sit, stand, wear, sleep</i> .

LANGUAGE NOTES

When the subject is doing two or more things, we don't repeat the verb *be* after *and*.

Children are making a snowman *and throwing* snowballs.

EXERCISE 2 Answer the following questions with a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE: What's Dan majoring in?
He's majoring in music.

1. Why's Dan's English improving?
2. What instrument is he learning to play?
3. How many courses is he taking this semester?
4. Why's Dan unhappy about the food?
5. What are Dan and his roommate thinking about doing?
6. What's Dan wearing now?
7. What are you majoring in?
8. How many credit hours are you taking?

6.3

Spelling of the *-ing* Form

Rule	Verbs	<i>-ing</i> Form
Add <i>-ing</i> to most verbs. (Note: Do not drop the <i>y</i> of the base form.)	eat go study	eating going studying
For a one-syllable verb that ends in a consonant + vowel + consonant (CVC), double the final consonant and add <i>-ing</i> .	p l a n ↓ ↓ ↓ CVC s t o p ↓ ↓ ↓ CVC s i t ↓ ↓ ↓ CVC	planning stopping sitting
Do not double a final <i>w</i> , <i>x</i> , or <i>y</i> .	show mix stay	showing mixing staying
For a two-syllable verb that ends in CVC, double the final consonant only if the last syllable is stressed.	refér admit begin	referring admitting beginning
When the last syllable of a two-syllable verb is not stressed, do not double the final consonant.	listen ópen óffer	listening opening offering
If the verb ends in a consonant + <i>e</i> , drop the <i>e</i> before adding <i>-ing</i> .	live take write	living taking writing

EXERCISE 3 Write the *-ing* form of the verb. (Two-syllable verbs that end in CVC have accent marks to show which syllable is stressed.)

EXAMPLES:

play playing
make making

- plan _____
- ópen _____
- sit _____
- begin _____
- hurry _____

- háppen _____
- stay _____
- grow _____
- marry _____
- grab _____

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 11. write _____ | 16. drive _____ |
| 12. fix _____ | 17. wait _____ |
| 13. wipe _____ | 18. serve _____ |
| 14. carry _____ | 19. visit _____ |
| 15. drink _____ | 20. prefer _____ |

EXERCISE 4 Fill in the blanks with the present continuous tense of the verb in parentheses (). Use correct spelling.

EXAMPLE: Dan is writing a letter.
(write)

- He _____ in a dorm.
(live)
- Dan and his roommate _____ weight.
(gain)
- Dan _____ in chemistry.
(not/major)
- Children outside _____ a snowman and _____ snowballs.
(make) (throw)
- Dan _____ a term paper on music theory.
(write)
- I _____ in the blanks with the correct verb form.
(fill)
- My teacher _____ corrections.
(make)
- We _____ the textbook.
(use)
- We _____ reading now.
(not/study)
- We _____ Exercise 4.
(finish)

EXERCISE 5 Make a true affirmative statement or negative statement about your activities now with the words given.

EXAMPLES: wear a watch
I'm wearing a watch (now).

drink coffee
I'm not drinking coffee (now).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. sit in the back of the room | 6. look out the window |
| 2. speak my native language | 7. look at the chalkboard |
| 3. pay attention | 8. write a composition |
| 4. ask questions | 9. use my textbook |
| 5. learn the present continuous tense | 10. wear jeans |

EXERCISE 6 Make a **true** affirmative statement or negative statement about yourself with the words given. Talk about a long-term action.

EXAMPLES: look for a job
I'm looking for a job.

live in a hotel
I'm not living in a hotel.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. look for a new apartment | 7. write a term paper |
| 2. learn a lot of English | 8. try to understand American customs |
| 3. gain weight | 9. meet Americans |
| 4. lose weight | 10. learn how to drive |
| 5. spend a lot of money | 11. live in a dorm |
| 6. save my money | 12. plan to return to my hometown |

6.4 Questions with the Present Continuous Tense

Wh- Word	Be + Not	Subject	Be	Verb-ing	Complement	Short Answer
		Dan	is	wearing	a sweater.	
	Is	Dan		wearing	a hat?	No, he isn't .
What	is	Dan		wearing?		
Why	isn't	Dan		wearing	a hat?	
		Who	is	wearing	a hat?	
		Children	are	playing.		
	Are	they		playing	inside?	No, they aren't .
Where	are	they		playing?		
Why	aren't	they		playing	inside?	

LANGUAGE NOTES

When the question is "What . . . doing?" we usually answer with a different verb. Compare these questions and answers.

What's he *doing*? He's *writing* a letter.

What *are* the children *doing*? They're *playing* in the snow.

What *are* you *doing*? I'm *studying* verbs.

EXERCISE 7 Use the words given to ask a question about what this class is doing now. Another student will answer.

EXAMPLE: we/use the textbook now
A. Are we using the textbook now?
B. Yes, we are.

1. the teacher/wear a sweater
2. the teacher/write on the chalkboard
3. the teacher/erase the chalkboard
4. the teacher/sit at the desk
5. the teacher/take attendance
6. the teacher/explain the grammar
7. the teacher/help the students
8. we/practice the present continuous tense
9. we/practice the past tense
10. we/review Lesson 5
11. we/make mistakes
12. what/the teacher/wear
13. where/the teacher/stand or sit
14. what exercise/we/do
15. what/you/think about

EXERCISE 8 Ask a question about a long-term action with the words given. Another student will answer.

EXAMPLE: you/study math this semester
A. Are you studying math this semester?
B. Yes, I am.

1. you/plan to buy a car
2. you/study biology this semester
3. you/take other courses this semester
4. you/look for a new apartment
5. you/look for a job
6. your English/improve
7. your vocabulary/grow
8. the teacher/help you
9. the students/make progress
10. you/learn about other students' countries

EXERCISE 9 Ask and answer questions about Dan's letter.

EXAMPLE: Dan/lose weight
A. Is Dan losing weight?
B. No, he isn't. He's gaining weight.

1. Dan/live in an apartment
2. he/major in art
3. he/study the guitar
4. his roommate/major in chemistry
5. Dan/wear a new sweater
6. he/take/18 credit hours
7. what/Dan/major in
8. how many courses/Dan/take

EXERCISE 10 Read each sentence. Then ask a *wh*- question about the words in parentheses (). Another student will answer.

EXAMPLE: We're doing an exercise. (What exercise)

A. What exercise are we doing?

B. We're doing Exercise 10.

1. We're practicing a tense. (What tense)
2. We're using a textbook. (What kind of book)
3. You're listening to the teacher. (Why)
4. The teacher's helping the students. (Why)
5. I'm answering a question. (Which question)
6. We're practicing questions. (What kind of questions)
7. Your English ability is improving. (Why)
8. Your life is changing. (How)
9. You're taking courses. (How many courses)

EXERCISE 11 Read each statement. Then write a question about the words in parentheses (). Write an answer. Refer to Dan's letter on page 154.

EXAMPLE: Dan is writing a letter. (to whom) OR (who . . . to)
A. Who is he writing to? OR To whom is he writing?
B. He's writing to his family.

1. He's learning a new instrument. (what instrument)

A. _____

B. _____

2. He's gaining weight. (why)

A. _____

B. _____

3. His roommate is studying. (who . . . with) OR (with whom)

A. _____

B. _____

4. He's wearing something new. (what)
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
5. His English is improving. (why)
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
6. He's taking courses. (how many courses)
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
7. He's meeting new students. (what kind)
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

EXERCISE 12 Fill in the blanks with *I'm* or *I'm not* + the *-ing* form of the verb in parentheses () to tell if you are doing these things now or at this general point in time. Then ask another student if he or she is doing this activity now. The other student will answer. (You may work with a partner.)

- EXAMPLES:**
- (plan) *I'm planning* to buy a computer.
 A. Are you planning to buy a computer?
 B. Yes, I am.
- (learn) *I'm not learning* to drive a car.
 A. Are you learning to drive a car?
 B. No, I'm not.

1. (wear) _____ jeans.
2. (hold) _____ a pencil.
3. (chew) _____ gum.
4. (think) _____ about the weekend.
5. (live) _____ in a dorm.
6. (plan) _____ to take a vacation.
7. (look) _____ for a job.
8. (plan) _____ to buy a computer.
9. (take) _____ a computer class this semester.
10. (get) _____ tired.

11. (gain) _____ weight.
12. (learn) _____ about the history of the U.S.
13. (learn) _____ how to drive.

EXERCISE 13 A woman is calling her husband from a cell phone in her car. Fill in the blanks to complete the conversation.

- A. Hello?
- B. Hi. It's Betty.
- A. Oh, hi, Betty. This connection is so noisy. Where are you calling
(example) from?
- B. I _____ (1) from the car. I _____ (2) the cell phone.
- A. _____ (3) home now?
- B. No, I'm not. I'm driving to the airport.
- A. Why _____ (4) to the airport?
- B. I'm going to pick up a client of mine.
- A. I can't hear you. There's so much noise.
- B. Airplanes _____ (5) overhead. They're very low.
- A. I can't hear you. Talk louder please.
- B. I _____ (6) as loud as I can. I _____ (7) to the airport to pick up a client of mine. I'm late. Her plane _____ (8) now and I'm stuck⁵ in traffic. I'm getting nervous. Cars aren't moving.
- A. Why _____ (9) moving?
- B. There's an accident on the highway.
- A. I worry about you. _____ (10)?
- B. Of course, I'm wearing my seat belt.
- A. That's good.
- B. What _____ (11) now?

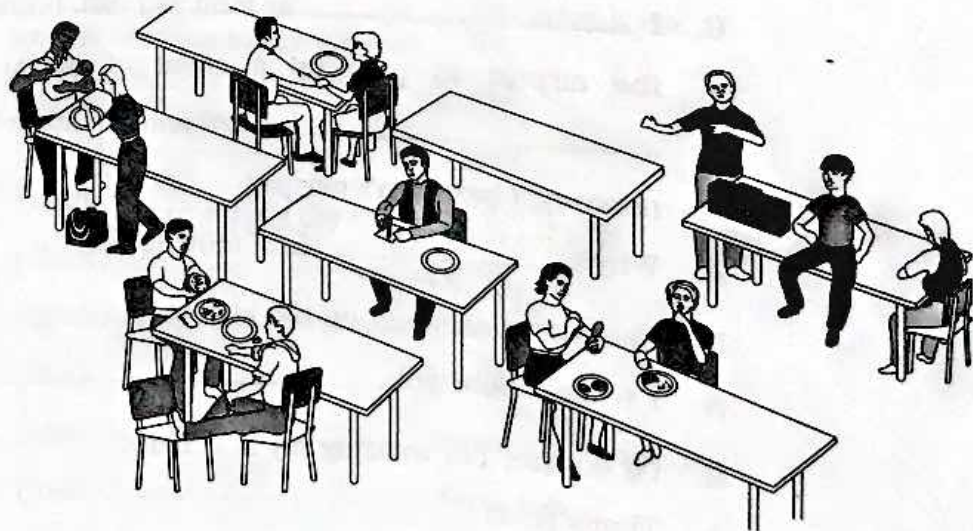
⁵ When you are stuck in traffic, you can't move because other cars aren't moving.

- A. I _____ (12) the computer. I'm _____ (13) for information about cars on the Internet.
- B. What _____ (14) doing?
- A. The kids? I can't hear you.
- B. Yes, the kids.
- A. Meg _____ (15) TV. Pam _____ (16) her homework.
- B. Why _____ (17) Meg doing her homework?
- A. She doesn't have any homework today.
- B. _____ (18) dinner for the kids?
- A. No, I'm not preparing dinner. I _____ (19) for you to come home and prepare the dinner.
- B. Please don't wait for me. Oh. Traffic is finally moving. Talk to you later.

Before You Read

1. What American behaviors are strange to you?
2. Is your behavior in the U.S. different from your behavior in your country?

Read the following letter. Pay special attention to verbs—simple present and present continuous.





In the School Cafeteria

Dear Family,

I'm **sitting** in the school cafeteria now. I'm **writing** this letter between classes. I see many strange behaviors and customs around me. You always **ask** me about American customs, so I **think** you probably **want** to know about life in the U.S.

I'm **looking** at a young couple at the next table. The young man and woman **are touching, holding hands, and even kissing**. It looks strange because people never **kiss** in public in our country. At another table, a young man and woman **are sitting** with a baby. The man **is feeding** the baby. Men never **feed** the baby in our country. Why **isn't** the woman **feeding** the baby?

Two women **are putting** on make-up. I **think** this is bad public behavior. These women **are wearing** shorts. In our country, women never **wear** shorts.

A group of students **is listening** to the radio. The music is very loud. Their music **is bothering** other people, but they **don't care**. I'm **sitting** far from them, but I **hear** their music.

A young man **is resting** his feet on another chair. His friend **is eating** a hamburger with his hands. Why **isn't** he **using** a fork and knife?

These kinds of behaviors **look** bad to me. I'm **trying** to understand them, but I'm **having** a hard time. I still **think** many of these actions are rude.⁶

Your son,
Ali

6.5

Contrast of Present Continuous and Simple Present

FORM



Simple Present	Present Continuous
He sometimes wears a suit.	He is wearing jeans now.
He doesn't usually wear shorts.	He isn't wearing a belt.
Does he ever wear a hat?	Is he wearing a T-shirt?
Yes, he does .	No, he isn't .
When does he wear a hat?	What is he wearing ?
Who wears a hat?	Who is wearing a T-shirt?

(continued)

⁶ Rude means impolite.

USES

Example	Explanation
<p>The President lives in the White House.</p> <p>We usually learn about American life.</p> <p>Americans eat hamburgers with their hands.</p>	<p>Use the simple present tense to talk about a general truth, a habitual activity, or a custom.</p>
<p>Ali is writing to his family now.</p> <p>He is looking at Americans in the cafeteria.</p> <p>He is trying to understand American customs.</p> <p>He is learning more and more about Americans all the time.</p>	<p>Use the present continuous for an action that is in progress at this moment.</p> <p>Use the present continuous for a longer action that is in progress at this general time.</p>

LANGUAGE NOTES



- When we use *live* in the simple present, we mean that this is a person's home. In the present continuous, it shows a temporary, short-term residence.
 - Ali *is living* in a dorm this semester.
 - His family *lives* in Jordan.
- "What do you do (for a living)?" asks about your job. "What are you doing?" asks about your activity at this moment.
 - What *does she do* for a living? She's a nurse.
 - What *is she doing*? She's *waiting* for the bus.

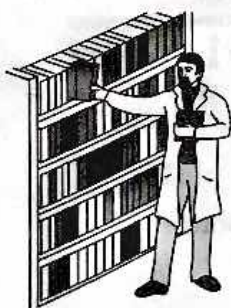
EXERCISE 14 Two students meet in the cafeteria and discuss American customs and customs of their native country. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses (). Practice the simple present and the present continuous.

- A. Hi. What are you doing here?
(example: you/do)
- B. I eat lunch. I always eat lunch at this time. But I also observe American behavior and customs.
- A. What do you mean?
- B. Well, look at that man over there. He wears an earring.
(4 wear)
- It looks so strange. Only women wear earrings in my country.
(5 wear)

- A. It is strange. And look at that woman. She _____ three earrings in one ear!
(6 wear)
- B. And she _____ running shoes with a dress. In my country, people only _____ running shoes for sports activities.
(7 wear) (8 use)
- A. Look at that student over there. He _____ a colored pen to mark his textbook. In my country, we never _____ in our textbooks because they _____ to the college, not to the students.
(9 use) (10 write) (11 belong)
- B. Many college activities are different here. For example, my English teacher usually _____ at the desk in class. In my country, the teacher always _____ in class. And the students always _____ when the teacher _____ the room.
(12 sit) (13 stand) (14 stand up) (15 enter)
- A. And college students always _____ English or another foreign language. Here, nobody knows another language. My American roommate _____ five courses this semester, but no foreign language.
(16 study) (17 take)
- B. By the way, how many classes _____ this semester?
(18 you/take)
- A. Four. In my country, I usually _____ eight courses a semester, but my adviser here says I can only take four.
(19 take)
- B. I have to go now. My girlfriend _____ for me at the library.
(20 wait)

6.6

Action vs. Nonaction Verbs



Action	Nonaction
Ali is learning about American customs.	He knows American customs are different.
Ali is wearing a heavy coat.	He hates winter.
Ali is buying his textbooks.	The books cost \$85.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We do not usually use the present continuous tense with certain verbs, called nonaction verbs. These verbs describe a state or condition, not an action. We use the simple present tense, even when we talk about now. Nonaction verbs are:

believe	know	own	seem
cost	like	prefer	understand
hate	love	remember	want
hear	need	see	

2. *Hear* and *see* are nonaction verbs. *Listen* and *look* are action verbs. Some students **are listening** to the radio. Ali **hears** the music. Ali **is looking** at students in the cafeteria. He **sees** some strange behaviors.

EXERCISE 15 Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous tense of the verb in parentheses ().

EXAMPLES: I understand the explanation now.
(understand)

I am writing now.
(write)

1. I _____ English this semester.
(study)

2. We _____ the textbook now.
(use)

3. We _____ a lot of practice with verb tenses.
(need)

4. We _____ action and nonaction verbs.
(compare)

5. I _____ every grammar rule.
(not/remember)

6. I _____ the chalkboard.
(see)

7. I _____ at the clock now. I _____ at my book.
(not/look) (look)

8. I _____ my dictionary now.
(not/need)

9. We _____ a composition now.
(not/write)

10. We _____ the students in the next room.
(not/hear)

11. We _____ about nonaction verbs.
(learn)
12. We _____ a lot of grammar.
(know)

6.7

Think, Have, and the Sense Perception Verbs

Action	Nonaction
He is thinking about his family.	He thinks that touching in public is bad.
He is having lunch in the cafeteria.	He has free time now.
He is having new experiences in the U.S.	He has new American friends.
	His friend has the flu now.
He is looking at a woman in shorts.	This behavior looks bad to him.
He is smelling the coffee.	The coffee smells delicious.

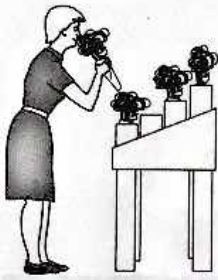
LANGUAGE NOTES

- Think* can be an action or a nonaction verb.
 - When we think about something, *think* is an action verb.
 - When *think* means to have an opinion about something, *think* is a nonaction verb.
- Have* can be an action or a nonaction verb.
 - When *have* shows possession, relationship, or illness, it is a nonaction verb.
 - When *have* means to experience something or to eat or drink something, it is an action verb.
- The sense perception verbs (*look, taste, feel, smell*) can be action or nonaction verbs.
 - When the sense perception verbs describe a state, they are nonaction verbs.
 - When they describe an action, they are action verbs.

EXERCISE 16 Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous tense of the verb in parentheses ().

EXAMPLES: I am thinking about my family.
(think)

I think that life in the U.S. is not perfect.
(think)



1. She _____ the flowers.
(smell)
2. The flowers _____ beautiful.
(smell)
3. They _____ about their children.
(think)
4. They _____ that their children are wonderful.
(think)
5. I _____ a good time in the U.S.
(have)
6. I _____ a lot of new friends.
(have)
7. I _____ a lot of free time.
(not/have)
8. My friend _____ a cold now and he can't go out
today, so I _____ lunch alone now.
(have)
9. He _____ at a car now.
(look)
10. The car _____ new.
(look)

EXERCISE 17 Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous of the verb in parentheses (). Use the simple present for regular activity and with nonaction verbs.

EXAMPLES: Ali _____ *wants* to understand American behavior.
(want)

He _____ *is looking* at some Americans in the cafeteria now.
(look)

1. Ali _____ a letter now.
(write)
2. He _____ in the school cafeteria now.
(sit)
3. He _____ a couple with a baby.
(see)
4. He often _____ to the cafeteria between classes.
(go)
5. He _____ to his family once a week.
(write)
6. He _____ that his family _____ to
know about American customs.
(think) (want)
7. He _____ at a young man and woman.
(look)
- They _____ hands.
(hold)

8. This behavior _____ bad in his country.
(look)
9. He _____ about American customs now.
(think)
10. Some women _____ shorts now.
(wear)
11. Women in Ali's country never _____ shorts.
(wear)
12. American customs _____ strange to him.
(seem)

EXERCISE 18 Read each sentence. Write the negative form of the underlined word, using the word(s) in parentheses ().

EXAMPLES:

Ali is looking at Americans. (people from his country)
He isn't looking at people from his country.

He knows about Arab customs. (American customs)
He doesn't know about American customs.

1. The father is feeding the baby. (the mother)

2. Ali's sitting in the cafeteria. (in class)

3. He understands Arab customs. (American customs)

4. American men and women sometimes kiss in public. (Arab men and women)

5. Americans use their hands to eat a hamburger. (to eat spaghetti)

6. A man is wearing an earring in one ear. (in both ears)

7. Americans seem strange to him. (Arabs)

8. American men like to take care of a baby. (Ali)

9. American women often wear shorts in the summer. (Moslem women/never)
-

EXERCISE 19 Read each sentence. Then write a *yes/no* question about the words in parentheses (). Write a short answer.

EXAMPLES: American women sometimes wear earrings. (American men/ever)

Do American men ever wear an earring? Yes, they do.

The women are wearing shorts. (the men)

Are the men wearing shorts? No, they aren't.

1. Ali is writing. (his homework)
-

2. He's watching people. (American people)
-

3. He understands Arab customs. (American customs)
-

4. American men wear shorts in the summer. (American women)
-

5. The man is eating. (a hot dog)
-

EXERCISE 20 Read each statement. Then write a *wh-* question about the words in parentheses (). An answer is not necessary.

EXAMPLES: A young man is resting his feet on a chair. (why)

Why is he resting his feet on a chair?

Ali lives in the U.S. (where/his family)

Where does his family live?

1. Ali is writing a letter. (to whom) OR (who . . . to)
-

2. Ali wants to know about American customs. (why)
-

3. Two women are putting on make-up. (where)

4. American men and women touch and hold hands in public. (why)

5. Ali writes to his family. (how often)

6. The man isn't using a fork. (why/not)

7. Women don't wear shorts in some countries. (why)

8. Americans often wear blue jeans. (why)

9. "Custom" means tradition or habit. (what/"behavior")

SUMMARY OF LESSON 6

Uses of Tenses

Simple Present Tense

General truths	Americans speak English. Oranges grow in Florida.
Regular activity, habit	I always speak English in class. I sometimes eat in the cafeteria. I visit my parents every Friday.
Customs	Americans shake hands. Japanese people bow .
Place of origin	Miguel comes from El Salvador. Marek comes from Poland.
With nonaction verbs	She has a new car. I like the U.S. You look great today.

Present Continuous (with action verbs only)

Now	We are reviewing now. I am looking at page 174 now.
A long action in progress at this general time	Dan is learning how to play the guitar. He is gaining weight.
A descriptive state	She is wearing shorts. He is sitting near the door. The teacher is standing.

EDITING ADVICE

1. Include *be* with a continuous tense.
He ^{is} working now.
2. Use the correct word order in a question.
Where ^{are you} you're going?
Why ^{don't you} you don't like New York?
3. Don't use the present continuous with a nonaction verb.
She ^{has} is having her own computer.
4. Use the -s form when the subject is *he*, *she*, or *it*.
He ^{has} have a new car. He like ^s to drive.
5. Don't use *be* with a simple present tense verb.
I'm need a new computer.
6. Use *do* or *does* in a simple present tense question.
Where ^{does} lives your mother? ^{live}

7. Don't use the -s form after *does*.

Where does he takes the bus?

Review the Editing Advice for the simple present tense on pages 70–72.

LESSON 6 TEST / REVIEW

PART 1

Find the mistakes with the underlined words and correct them. Not every sentence has a mistake. If the sentence is correct, write C.

EXAMPLES: She's ^{OWNS} owning a new bike now.

I'm not studying math this semester. C

1. Why you aren't listening to me?
2. Usually I'm go home after class.
3. I think that he's having trouble with this lesson.
4. She's thinking about her family now.
5. Does she needs help with her homework?
6. What kind of car do you have?
7. What he's studying now?
8. Does he has any children?
9. He's wearing jeans now.
10. My teacher speak English well.
11. I'm speak my native language at home.
12. The baby sleeping now.
13. When begins summer?
14. Where does your family lives?

PART 2

This is a conversation between two students, Alicia (A) and Teresa (T), who meet in the school library. Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous of the verb in parentheses ().

T. Hi, Alicia.

A. Hi, Teresa. What are you doing here?
(example: you/do)

T. I am looking for a book on American geography. What about you?
(1 look)

A. I am returning a book. do you want to go for a cup of coffee?
(2 return) (3 you/want)

T. I can't. I am waiting for my friend. We are working
(4 wait) (5 work)
on a geography project together, and we need to finish
(6 need)
it by next week.

A. Do you like your geography class?
(7 you/like)

T. Yes. I especially like the teacher, Bob. He's a handsome
(8 like)
young man. He's very casual. He always wears jeans and
(9 wear)
a T-shirt to class. He has an earring in one ear.
(10 have)

A. That seems very strange to me. I think
(11 seem) (12 think)
that teachers in the U.S. are very informal. How does Bob teach
(13 Bob/teach)
the class? By lecturing?

T. No. We usually work in small groups, and he
(14 usually/work)
helps us by walking around the classroom.
(15 help)

A. Does he give hard tests?
(16 he/give)

T. No. He doesn't believe in tests.
(17 not/believe)

A. Why doesn't he believe in tests?
(18 he/not/believe)

T. He thinks that students get too nervous during a test.
(19 think)
He says it's better to work on projects. This week
(20 say)
we are working on city maps.
(21 work)

A. That sounds interesting.
(22 sound)

T. Why do you ask me so many questions about my teacher?
(23 you/ask)

- A. I _____ about taking a geography course next semester.
(24 think)
- T. Bob's very popular. Be sure to register early because his classes always _____ quickly. Oh, I _____ my friend now. She _____ toward us. I have to go now.
(25 fill) (26 see) (27 walk)
- A. Good luck on your project.
- T. Thanks. Bye.

PART 3

Fill in the blanks with the negative form of the underlined word.

EXAMPLE: Teresa is in the library. She isn't at home.

1. Alicia wants to go for a cup of coffee. Teresa _____ to go for a cup of coffee.
2. Teresa is looking for a book. Alicia _____ for a book.
3. They are talking about school. They _____ about the news.
4. They have time to talk now. They _____ time for a cup of coffee.
5. Students in the geography class work in small groups. They _____ alone.
6. Alicia's teacher gives tests. Teresa's teacher _____ tests.
7. Teresa is waiting for a friend. Alicia _____ for a friend.
8. The teacher seems strange to Alicia. He _____ strange to Teresa.
9. Alicia is returning a book. Teresa _____ a book.

PART 4

Read each sentence. Then write a *yes/no* question about the words in parentheses (). Write a short answer.

EXAMPLE: Teresa is looking for a book. (a geography book)
Is she looking for a geography book? Yes, she is.

1. Bob likes projects. (tests)

2. Alicia has time now. (Teresa)

3. They are talking about their classes. (their teachers)

4. Bob wears jeans to class. (ever/a suit)

5. Alicia wants to go for coffee. (Teresa)

6. American teachers seem strange to Alicia. (to Teresa)

7. Teresa is working on a geography project. (Alicia)

PART 5

Read each sentence. Then write a question with the words in parentheses (). An answer is not necessary.

EXAMPLE: Bob is popular. (Why)
Why is he popular?

1. Bob sounds interesting. (Why)

2. Bob doesn't like tests. (Why)

3. Teresa and her friend are working on a project. (What kind of project)

4. Teresa studies in the library. (How often)

5. Teresa is looking for a book. (What kind)

6. Teresa is waiting for her friend. (Why)

7. Her classmates aren't writing a term paper. (Why)

EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. Think of a place (cafeteria, airport, train station, bus, playground, church, opera, movie theater, laundromat, office at this school, kindergarten classroom, restaurant, department store, etc.) Pretend you are at this place. Write three or four sentences to tell what people in this place are doing. Other students will guess where you are.

EXAMPLE:

People are walking fast.
People are carrying suitcases.
People are standing in long lines.
They're buying tickets.
Guess: Are you at the airport?

2. Pretend you are calling from your cell phone. You are telling your family where you are. Fill in the blanks to tell what you and other people are doing. Then find a partner and see how many of your sentences match your partner's sentences.
 - a. I'm at the supermarket. I'm _____. Do you need anything while I'm here?
 - b. I'm in my car. I'm _____.
 - c. I'm in the school library. I'm _____. People _____ me to be quiet because I'm _____ to you on my cell phone.
 - d. I'm in a taxi. I'm on my way home. I'm _____ you to let you know that _____.
 - e. I'm at the bus stop. I _____ for the bus, but it's late. I don't want you to worry.
 - f. I'm at a shoe store. I _____.
 - g. I'm at the playground with the kids. The kids _____.
 - h. I'm at church. The pastor is _____ but nobody is listening. Some people _____.
 - i. I'm at the movies. I can't talk now because the movie _____.
 - j. I'm in the bedroom. I have to talk softly because my husband _____.
 - k. I'm in class now. I can't talk. The teacher _____.

DISCUSSION

In a small group or with the entire class, discuss behaviors that are strange to you. What American behaviors are not polite in your native culture?

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

Go to the school cafeteria, student union, or other crowded place. Sit there for a while and look for unusual behaviors. Write down some of the unusual things you see. Report back to the class.

Internet Activity



Find the web site of a college in this city. Answer the following questions:

1. Where is it?
2. What's the tuition?
3. Does this college have evening classes?
4. Does this college have more than one location?
5. Does it have a graduate program?
6. Does it have dormitories?
7. Does it have ESL classes?
8. When is the next registration?