

The Present Tense

LOOK AT THE WORDS IN RED IN THE FOLLOWING CONVERSATION.

Riya: It is raining since last night.

Soniya: I know. That's why I always carry an umbrella.

Riya: Do you want to play Monopoly?

Soniya: Oh, no. I have been playing board games since last weekend. Bored! I better get home now.

Riya: But why do you want to go back so soon?

Sonia: I am worried about Kitty. He has been falling sick again and again.

Riya: Oh look, those cats are sleeping beneath the cars.



Q: Which tense is used in the above conversation?

A: The present tense

The Four Present Tense Forms

There are **four** present tense forms in English:

Present simple:	**I read…**
Present continuous:	**I am reading…**
Present perfect:	**I have read…**
Present perfect continuous:	**I have been reading…**



THE SIMPLE PRESENT

- Describes facts:
  The sun **rises** in the east.

- Describes habits and repeated actions:
  I **eat** an apple every morning.
  The train **arrives** at 12.30 pm.

- Used to tell stories:
  Tanya finally **sees** a house. She **walks** as quickly as she can and **knocks** on the door. “Hello, is anybody there?” she **asks**.



THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

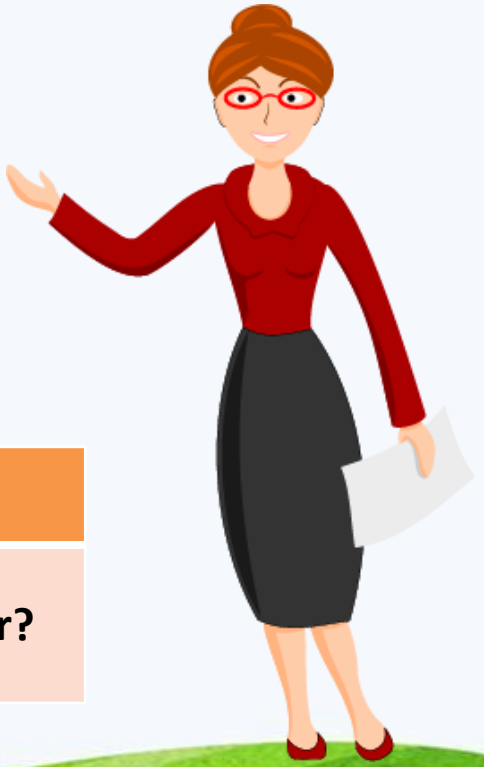
FORM: am/is/are + present participle

- Describes actions happening now or at the time of speaking (still unfinished):

  The children **are sleeping**.

  I **am waiting** for the bus now.

- Describes longer actions in progress:
  Meera **is studying** medicine in Australia.



More examples:

Positive	Negative	Interrogative
Mita is ironing her clothes.	**Ritu is working on her project.**	**Are you going to the fair?**

THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

FORM: have/has + the past participle

- Describes an action that happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important.

Examples:

I **have read** that book at least five times.

I **have seen** many documentaries about the solar system.



PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: has/have + been + the present participle

- Describes something that started in the past and has continued up until now.
  Anisha and **I have been studying** art history in Australia for three years.

- Describes something that has been happening recently or lately.
  Ritesh **has been learning** the piano lately.



Let’s Try

Fill in the blanks with the correct form (present tense) of the verb ‘read’.

1. Suki …… biographies of American Presidents since he was eight.
2. The boys …….. mystery novels and recommend the same to their friends.
3. Ronny …….. the newspaper now. He doesn’t want to be disturbed.
4. They …….. all Famous Five books already.