

- Present time: present simple, present continuous, present perfect simple, present perfect continuous, stative verbs

Present simple

Form	statement: I/you/we/they travel ... negative: I/you/we/they don't travel ... question: Do I/you/we/they travel ...?	He/she/it travels ... He/she/it doesn't travel ... Does he/she/it travel ...?
Use	Example	
Current habits	Toby walks to work.	
To talk about how often things happen	Angela doesn't visit us very often.	
Permanent situations	Carlo works in a travel agent's.	
States	Do you have an up-to-date passport?	
General truths and facts	Poland is in the European Union.	



- We can also use do/does in present simple statements for emphasis.
'You don't like going by bus, do you?' 'Actually, I **do like** going by bus for short distances.'
The bus isn't quicker than the train but it **does stop** right outside the factory.

Present continuous

Form	statement: I am driving ... You/we/they are driving ... He/she/it is driving ... negative: I 'm not driving ... You/we/they aren't driving ... or You're/we're/they're not driving ... He/she/it isn't driving ... or He's/she's/it's not driving ... question: Am I driving ...? Are you/we/they driving ...? Is he/she/it driving ...?
Use	Example
Actions happening now	Mike is driving to work at the moment.
Temporary series of actions	Taxi drivers aren't stopping at the train station because of the roadworks.
Temporary situations	Are they staying in a hotel near the Olympic stadium?
Changing and developing situations	Holidays abroad are becoming increasingly popular.
Annoying habits (usually with <i>always</i>)	Dad is always cleaning the car when I want to use it!

Present perfect simple

Form	have/has + past participle statement: I/you/we/they have flown ... negative: I/you/we/they haven't flown ... question: Have I/you/we/they flown ...?	He/she/it has flown ... He/she/it hasn't flown ... Has he/she/it flown ...?
Use	Example	
Situations and states that started in the past and are still true	She's had her motorbike for over six years.	
A series of actions continuing up to now	We've travelled by taxi, bus, plane and train – all in the last twenty-four hours!	
Completed actions at a time in the past which is not mentioned	Have you ever flown in a helicopter?	
Completed actions where the important thing is the present result	I've booked the coach tickets.	

Watch out!

- Phrases such as *It's the first/second/etc time ...* are followed by the present perfect simple.
✓ *It's the second time I've been on a plane.*

US vs UK Grammar

- Speakers of American English often use the past simple in situations where speakers of British English would use the present perfect simple.
US: *We already saw the Sphinx.*
UK: *We've already seen the Sphinx.*
- Speakers of American English use *gotten* as the past participle of the verb 'get', except when 'get' means 'have' or 'possess'. Speakers of British English only ever use *got*.
US: *We've already gotten Dan a new backpack for his summer vacation.*
UK: *We've already got Dan a new rucksack for his summer holiday.*

Present perfect continuous

Form	statement: I/you/we/they have been travelling ...	He/she/it has been travelling ...
	negative: I/you/we/they haven't been travelling ...	He/she/it hasn't been travelling ...
	question: Have I/you/we/they been travelling ...?	Has he/she/it been travelling ...?

Use

Example

Actions continuing up to the present moment	<i>We have been driving for hours. Can't we have a break soon?</i>
Actions stopping just before the present moment	<i>I'm out of breath because I've been running to get here in time.</i>

Watch out!

- The present perfect continuous is often used with words and phrases like *all day/week/year/etc, for, since, just, etc.*
✓ *We've been walking for hours and I need a rest.*
- The present perfect continuous is **not** normally used with the words *ever* and *never*.
✓ *Have you ever flown in a helicopter before?*
X *Have you ever been flying in a helicopter before?*
- Sometimes there is very little difference in meaning between the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous and sometimes there is a difference in meaning.
✓ *I have worked at the airport for four years. = I have been working at the airport for four years.*
✓ *I have read that book about cruise ships. (I have finished it.) I have been reading that book about cruise ships. (I have not finished it.)*

Stative verbs

Stative verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses because they don't describe actions.

- ✓ *I see what you mean.*
- X ~~*I am seeing what you mean.*~~

Use

Stative verbs often refer to:

Example

thinking	<i>believe, imagine, know, mean, think, understand</i>
existence	<i>be, exist</i>
emotions	<i>hate, like, love, need, prefer, satisfy, want</i>
the human senses	<i>hear, see, smell, sound, taste</i>
appearance	<i>appear, look, resemble, seem</i>
possession and relationships between things	<i>belong to, consist of, have, include, involve, own</i>

Watch out!

- Some verbs (such as *be, have, imagine, look, see, smell, taste, think*) are stative with one meaning and non-stative with another meaning.
✓ *Do you have your plane ticket with you?* (state: possession)
✓ *Are you having lunch at the moment?* (action: eating)