

Mohamed Khidher University-Biskra-



Faculty of Arts and Languages

The Division of the French Language

Second Term English Language Courses
For
First Year French Language Students

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ACADEMIC YEAR
2019-2020

PART ONE:
GRAMMAR

a/ PRESENT TENSES.

1-The present simple

The use of the present simple:

1/ It expresses habitual/ repeated actions:

-On Fridays, I get up at 9:30 am.

-He takes a shower three times a week.

2/ It's often used with adverbs or adverb phrases: Often, usually, sometimes, never, always, frequently, rarely, seldom, occasionally, on Tuesdays, once a year, every day.....

- The town always looks deserted on Friday morning.

- She can seldom find time for reading.

3/ It is used for an action that indicates customs and Traditions:

- Muslims fast in Ramadan.

- I go to bed at 10.00pm.

4/ It is used for planned future actions.

-We leave Algiers at 10:00 am next Tuesday and arrive in Oran at 3:30pm . We spend two hours sight-seeing, and leave again at 5:30 for Tlemcen.

5/ It is used for facts that are always true (universal truths):

-Oranges contain vitamin C.

-Elephants never forget.

6/ It is used to indicate a future after if:

-I will go to work by car if it goes on raining.

-If john is at home, he will certainly answer the phone.

7/ It is used after a preposition of time indicating a future:

-He will come back as soon as he can.

-She will completely forget when she is in Italy.

8/ It is used in headlines in newspaper and magazines when these headlines tell about past events:

-Hospital collapses, Six firemen die searching for colleague.

-The president ends his visit to Europe.

2-The present continuous

(*am, are, is* + the *-ing* form of the verb).

The use of the present continuous:

1/ We use the present continuous to talk about events which are in progress at the moment of speaking:

-A: *What time's dinner?*

-B: *I'm cooking now so it'll be ready in about half an hour.*

-She's pressing the button but nothing is happening.

2/ We use the present continuous to talk about temporary states which are true around the moment of speaking:

-Her mother's living with her at the moment. She's just come out of hospital.

-Who's looking after the children while you're here?

3/ We use the present continuous to describe actions which are repeated or regular, but which we believe to be temporary:

-I'm not drinking much coffee these days. I'm trying to cut down.

-She's working a lot in London at the moment. (She doesn't usually work in London.)

4/ We use the present continuous to talk about a gradual change:

-They're building a new stand at the football ground.

-Maria, 37, is getting better and doctors are optimistic she will make a full recovery.

5/ We often use the present continuous with words like *always, constantly, continually* and *forever* (adverbs of indefinite frequency) to describe events which are regular but not planned, and often not wanted:

-My wife, she's always throwing things out. I like to keep everything.

-I'm constantly spilling things.

5/ We use the present continuous to refer to the future when we talk about plans and arrangements that have already been made:

-We're moving to Cambridge in July.

-Aren't you playing tennis on Saturday.

6/ Verbs not often used in the present continuous

Some verbs are normally used in the present simple and not in the present continuous. Here are some of them: *know, suppose, think, understand* (mental process verbs), *admire, adore, detest, hate, like, respect* (verbs expressing feelings), *smell, taste* (verbs describing the senses), *consist, contain, last* (verbs describing permanent qualities), *promise, swear* (speech act verbs)

-You could ask Greg if he can help. He knows a bit about cars.

Not: ~~He's knowing a bit about cars.~~

~~-Those batteries don't last very long.~~

Not: ~~Those batteries aren't lasting very long.~~

3-The present simple and present continuous

(Exercises for practice)

I Underline the correct verb TENSE.

- 1- A: What's that noise? B: You **imagine/are imagining** things. There's no-one else in the house.
- 2- It **is saying/says** here that you're supposed to add the garlic just before serving.
- 3- I'm terrified of flying, so I **prefer/am preferring** going by car or boat.
- 4- Andy sometimes **is reading/ reads** comics.
- 5- Listen! Sandy **sings/is singing** in the bathroom.
- 6- They often **are cleaning/ clean** the bathroom.
- 7- Look! The boys **come/are coming** home.
- 8- Every day his grandfather **go/ are going** for a walk.
- 9- I **am chatting/ chat** with my friend at the moment.
- 10- He **is appearing / appears** in two shows every week.

II Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

- 1- Kim (take) her dog for a walk in the evenings.
- 2- Call later. He (study) for his exam now.
- 3- How much the book (cost)?
- 4- Take an umbrella. It (rain) at the moment.
- 5- My grandmother (not forget) any of her grandchildren's birthdays.
- 6- Vegetarians (not eat) meat.
- 7- you (come) to the disco with us next Friday?
- 8- This suitcase (weigh) about 20 kilos.

III Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

1. Visiting our friends in the country is a rare occurrence. (see)
We
2. They are in the middle of supper. (have) Right now,
they
3. In my opinion, she isn't beautiful. (not think)
I
4. She's not working today because it's Saturday. (not go)
She
5. We don't have anything special planned for this weekend. (do)
We
6. My neighbours own that car. (belong)
That car
7. What's the matter? (cry)
Why ..?

IV Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

If you 1..... (love) surfing and 2..... (want) to get a university degree, you should go to Plymouth University in Britain. Students who 3..... (surf) three or four times a week for fun can now do a degree in surfing, and make a career of it. While surfing 4..... (look) easy when you watch from the beach, getting a degree is quite hard to achieve. Jim and Helen are in their last year of school, and 5..... (take) their A-levels this summer. They both 6..... (own) surfboards, but they 7..... (not surf) much these days. They 8..... (study) very hard for their Alevels. They 9..... (know) the academic requirements for acceptance to the surfing course are high, and the course itself is also hard. It 10..... (include) oceanography, marine biology, ecology and the design of wetsuits and surfboards, as well as actual surfing. But Jim and Helen both 11..... (believe) it's worth the effort. Let's wish them luck.

Keys to Exercises

- I** are imagining / 2. Says/ 3. prefer / 4. Reads/ 5. is singing/ 6. Clean/ 7. are coming/ 8. Goes/ 9. am chatting/ 10. Appears.
- II** 1. takes 5. doesn't forget 2. is studying 6. don't eat 3. does ... cost 7. Are ... coming 4. is raining 8. Weighs
- III** 1. rarely see our friends in the country 2. are having supper 3. don't think she's beautiful 4. doesn't go to work on Saturdays 5. aren't doing anything special this weekend 6. belongs to my neighbour 7. are you crying.
- IV** 1. love 7. aren't surfing / don't surf 2. want 8. are studying 3. surf 9. know 4. looks 10. includes 5. are taking 11. believe 6. Own.