

Routine or temporary action?

Present simple vs present continuous

Read the situation

Use the present simple for an established routine or fact. Use am/is/are + -ing for an action underway or a temporary situation. Time words are clues: read the whole situation. know, meaning "have the answer", describes a state. With he/she, use -s in the present simple.

Usually we read indoors. At this moment we are reading outside.

cycle—cycling; travel—travelling; play—playing; work—working; help—helping; know—knows.

A. Habit and now

Write the usual journey and the journey in progress: two sentences.

Nadia (she): usual school trip — cycle. Today: a bus journey is in progress — travel by bus.

B. Repair the contrast

Correct Tom's sentence. Replace Marta's sentence with her weekly routine. Briefly explain know.

Tom (he) has the answer now.

Marta (she): tennis every Monday for years; today, Tuesday, she is at the library. Message: "Tom is knowing the answer. Marta is playing tennis at this moment."

Check the situation and the meaning of each noun.

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C. Mini-report

Contrast regular work and today's exception in two sentences.

Leo (he): regular Saturday job — work in a café. Today: help at the school fair, now in progress; away from the café.

Check the situation and the meaning of each noun.