

12 Present Tense

Practice Run Put the verbs in these examples into the correct form, Present simple, continuous or perfect (simple or continuous). Notice that sometimes there are several possibilities. Try to give reasons for your choices.

1. She **is thinking** of writing an article for the next edition of the journal
2. PM **has called / is calling** for an election at last
3. Chomsky (1959) **has developed** a system of analysing syntax that still **affects** the way we **perceives** sentence structure today.
4. What part of Switzerland **do you come from?** – Zürich; but **I'm living** in Berne just now.
5. Oh, no! It **s raining** again.
6. Astronauts from other planets **have been visiting / have visited** our solar system ever since the beginning of time. At this very moment, spaceships **are hovering** over our heads and eager eyes **are watching** what you and I **are doing**. For many people it **feels** odd to think that they **are being observed** all the time but I **think** there's nothing to it really.
7. I **don't know** Portugal at all ; I **have never been** there.
8. Go and see what John **is doing**, will you? I **have not seen** him since breakfast.
9. You do not need to describe her, as I **have met** her several times.
10. **Have you seen** my glasses? I can't find them anywhere. – Oh Jerry, you **are always misplacing** them. I **find** this really annoying.
11. You **constantly make / are constantly making** stupid mistakes. Why **don't you ever learn?**
12. I **am standing** here in the lobby of the church, as the Queen **enters** the hall. Behind her we **see** the Duke of Wellington and her grandsons, who **are wearing** somber expressions on their faces.
13. Whenever I enter her office, she **is knitting**.
14. What **does** her father **do** for a living? – He **runs** a small publishing company. **Is it doing** well? – Oh, yes. The reading public **is getting** bigger and bigger. The firm **sells/is selling** about two hundred paperbacks every year.
15. Ships **travel** from Southampton to New York in four or five days.
16. On my way to work, I **generally meet** Bob, who **is always rushing** (always rushes) because he **never gets up** on time.
17. The letters he used to write were brief and uninteresting, but the ones he **is writing / writes** now are a pleasure to read.
18. Do you **ever listen** to rock music? – No, I **usually prefer** jazz.
19. Science **is beginning** to dominate our lives.
20. It **doesn't rain** here nearly as much as people **think**.
21. My assistant **always works** extremely hard, but I **do not see** much of him these days because he **is attending** an in-service training course.
22. The office we **are occupying** at the moment is much too small, so we **are thinking** of moving.
23. She **is constantly having** rows with the librarian.
24. **Do you hear** anything?
No, I **'m listening** hard but I can't hear a thing.
25. Have you tried the new Indian restaurant on the corner? One usually gets quite a reasonable meal there these days.
26. **Do you understand** how the new programme **works** now? Well, I should. I **'ve been working** with it for a month. Anyway, I **think I know** roughly how it **functions**.