

## 4 Careers

### Present simple and present continuous

**1** Match the verb forms in **bold** in the sentences below with their uses a–d below.

- 1 I **speak** English mainly in my English lessons, and sometimes when I'm on holiday.
  - 2 I'm bilingual – I **speak** French and German, like many Swiss people.
  - 3 Don't ask me now – can't you see I'm **speaking** on the phone?
  - 4 I've had a terrible argument with another team member, although we're still **speaking**.
- a) Present continuous used for an action happening around now, but not at this exact moment.
- b) Present continuous used for an action happening right now.
- c) Present simple used for a fact or permanent situation.
- d) Present simple used for a habit or routine.

**2** In these mini-dialogues the tenses are correct, but there are four mistakes of form. Find and correct the mistakes.

- 1 A: You work on Saturdays?  
B: No, luckily I not work on Saturdays.
- 2 C: You are going for an interview today?  
D: No, I not going today – the interview is tomorrow.

**3** Put one verb into the present simple and one into the present continuous in each sentence.

- 1 Have you met Freda? She \_\_\_\_\_ (come) from Berlin. Oh, there she is. She \_\_\_\_\_ (come) over here now.
- 2 Usually we \_\_\_\_\_ (have) just two hours of English a week. But this month I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) some private lessons to help me get a better grade in the exam.

**4** The time expression can give a clue about which verb tense to use. Look at the time expression in **bold** then put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 **Right now** I \_\_\_\_\_ (do) two assignments, one for Economics and one for Quantitative Analysis.
- 2 **Every semester** we \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an exam on all the material we've studied.
- 3 **Once a day** I \_\_\_\_\_ (check) all my emails.
- 4 **This week** a friend from Ireland \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) with me.
- 5 **At the moment** I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) to hear from an IT company who I sent my CV to.
- 6 **From time to time** I \_\_\_\_\_ (do) a bit of work in my father's company – usually during the summer.

**5** Some verbs (called 'state' verbs) are not usually used in a continuous form. Tick (✓) the verb forms that are correct. Change the incorrect forms in **bold** into the present simple.

- 1 The soup **is tasting** delicious!
- 2 The soup **is boiling**.
- 3 Sorry, I'm **not following** you.
- 4 Sorry, I'm **not understanding** you.
- 5 What **are you saying**?
- 6 What **are you meaning**?
- 7 This book **is belonging** to me.
- 8 This book **is selling** for €15 on Amazon.
- 9 Please don't interrupt me – I'm **doing** a grammar exercise.
- 10 This grammar exercise is easy – I'm **knowing** all of the answers.

#### Common state verbs

be believe belong cost depend know  
like mean measure need see seem taste  
think understand want weigh

### Present perfect

**6** Match the verb forms in **bold** in the sentences below with their uses a–c.

- 1 I've **worked** here for nearly a year.
  - 2 I've **worked** in several different bars and restaurants since leaving university.
  - 3 I put my old camera for sale on eBay and I've **sold it!** With the money I'll be able to buy a better one.
- a) Present situation caused by a past event.
- b) People's experiences up to now (*when* they happened is not important).
- c) Something that started in the past and continues up to the present.

**7** Complete the grammar explanations in the box with these words: *present simple*, *present continuous*, *present perfect*.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ has several uses, but it shows that the speaker is looking back from the present to the past.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ has several uses, but it shows that a present action or situation is temporary.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ has several uses, but it shows that a present action or situation is permanent.

Now look back at all the example sentences on this page and compare with the explanations.