

SENIOR ONE - ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

COMPARE

Present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking.

The action is not complete.

I am doing*Past**now**future*

- The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- Listen to those people. What language **are** they **speaking**?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- 'I'm busy'. 'What **are** you **doing**?'
- I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

We use the continuous for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: You're **working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

Present simple (I do)

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

I do*Past**now**future*

- Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, **do** you **speak** English?
- It **doesn't rain** very much in summer.
- What **do** you usually **do** at weekends?
- I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

EXERCISE 1:

Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

1. Why are all these people here? What's happening (What/happen)?
2. Julia is good at languages. (She / Speak) four languages very well.
3. Are you ready yet?.....(Everybody /Wait) for you.
4. I've never heard this word. How(you / Pronounce) it?
5. Kate.....(not /work) this week. She's on holiday.
6. I think my English.....(improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
7. Nicola.....(live) in Manchester. She has never lived anywhere else.
8. Can we stop walking soon? (I /Start) to get tired.
9. Sam and Tina are in Madrid right now..... (They / Visit) a friend of theirs.
10. 'What (your father /do)?' 'He's an architect.'
11. It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days.....(it/not/take) so long.
12. I(I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My
father..... (teach) me.

Past Simple (I did)

Very often the past simple ends in **-ed** (*regular verbs*):

- I work in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- They **invited** us to their party, but we **decided** not to go.
- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- Laura **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The past simple does *not* end in **-ed**. For example:

Write	→	Wrote	• Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
See	→	Saw	• We saw Alice in town a few days ago.
Go	→	Went	• I went to the cinema three times last week.
shut	→	shut	• It was cold, so I shut the window.

In questions and negative sentences, we use **did/didn't** + infinitive (**enjoy/see/go** etc):

I	Enjoyed
She	Saw
they	went

	you	enjoy?
did	she	see?
	they	go?

I		enjoy
She	didn't	see
they		go

- I enjoyed the party a lot. **Did** you **enjoy** it?
- How many people **did** they **invite** to the wedding?
- I **didn't buy** anything because I **didn't have** any money.
- 'Did you go out?' 'No, I **didn't**.'

Sometimes **do** is the main verb in the sentence (did you **do**? I didn't **do**):

- What **did** you **do** at the weekend? (*not* What did you at the weekend?)
- I **didn't do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

The past of **be** (am /is/are) is **was/were**

I/he/she/it	Was /wasn't	was	I/he/she/it?
We/you/they	Were /weren't	were	We/you/they?

- **I was** annoyed because **they were** late.
- **Was the weather** good when **you were** on holiday?
- **They weren't** able to come because **they were** busy.
- **I wasn't** hungry, so I didn't eat anything.
- Did you go out last night or **were you** too tired?

Exercise 2:

Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

1. It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
2. The film wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it much. (enjoy)
3. I knew Sarah was busy, so I her. (disturb)
4. We were very tired, so we..... the party early. (leave)
5. It was hard carrying the bags. They really heavy. (be)
6. The bed was very uncomfortable. I.....well (sleep)
7. This watch wasn't expensive. Itmuch. (cost)
8. The window was open and a bird in to the room. (fly)
9. I was in a hurry, so I time to call you. (have)
10. I didn't like the hotel. The room very clean. (be)

Present perfect1 (I have done)

Study this example situation:

Tom can't find his key

He's **lost** his key. (= He **has lost**....)

he **has lost** his key = he lost it and he doesn't have it now

have lost/has lost is the present perfect simple:

I / we/ they / you have (= I've etc.)	finished
he /she/it has (= he's etc)	lost
	done
	been etc.



The present perfect is **have / has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (**finished** / **decided** etc.), but many verbs are irregular (**lost** / **done**/ **written** etc).

When we say 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** an accident. (= There **has been**....)
- Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- Tom **has lost** his key. (= he doesn't have it now)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- Sally is still here. She **hasn't gone** out. (= she is here *now*)
- I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (=do you know where it is *now*?)

Compare **gone(to)** and **been(to)**:

- James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (=he is there now or on his way there)
- Amy is back home now. She **has been** to Italy. (= she has now come back)

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

- ❖ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ❖ Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

Already = sooner than expected:

- ❖ 'Don't forget to pay the bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- ❖ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. We use **yet** to show that we are expecting something to happen.

We use **yet** in questions and negative sentences;

- ❖ **Has** it **stopped** raining **yet**?
- ❖ I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it yet.

Exercise 3:

Complete the sentences using the present perfect.

1. Sally is still here. She hasn't gone (She /not/go) out.
2. I can't find my bag.....(you/see/it) anywhere?
3. I can't log on the website(I/forget) my password.
4. I sent Joe an email this morning, but (he /not/reply).
5. Is the meeting still going on, or.....(it/ finish)?
6.(the weather /change). It's colder now.
7. (you /not/sign) the form. Could you sign it now, please?
8. Are your friends still here, or(they/go) home?
9. Paul doesn't know what he's going to do.(he/not/decide/yet).
10. 'Do you know where Julia is? 'Yes, (I/just/see/her).'
11. 'When is David going away?' '..... (he /already/go).'
12. A:..... (your lesson /start/yet)?

B: Not yet. It starts next week.

Exercise 4:

Read the situations and write sentences with *just*, *already* or *yet*.

1. After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?' You say: No thank you. *I've just had lunch.* (have lunch)
2. Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to joe?' You say: I'm afraid..... (go out).
3. You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
4. You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
5. You know that Lisa is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. You ask her:? (find)
6. You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
7. Laura went out, but a few minutes ago she returned. Some body asks, 'Is Laura still out?' You say: No, (come back)

Past perfect (I had done)

Study this example situation:

Sarah and Paul went to the same party last week, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock.

So when Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

had gone is the *past perfect*:

I / we/ they / you/he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen done finished etc.
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The past perfect (simple) is **had** + *past participle* (**gone /seen/finished** etc.).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

❖ Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had** ..):

❖ **When Sarah arrived** at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

Some more examples:

- ❖ When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- ❖ Karen didn't come to the cinema with us. She'd already seen the movie.
- ❖ At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realized that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- ❖ The people sitting next to me on the plane were nervous. They **hadn't flown** before.
Or They'd never **flown** before.

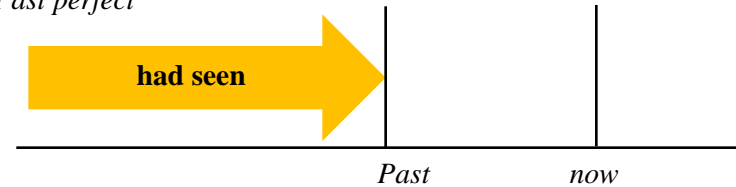
Compare present *perfect* (**have seen** etc.) and past *perfect* (**had seen** etc.):

Present perfect



- ❖ Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- ❖ We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
- ❖ The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

Past perfect



- ❖ I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- ❖ We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
- ❖ The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

Compare *past simple* (**left, was** etc.) and *past perfect* (**had left, had been** etc.):

Past simple

- ❖ A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- ❖ Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned.
She **was** at her mother's house.

Past perfect

- ❖ A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: No, he'd already **left**.
- ❖ Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned.
She'd **been** at her mother's house.

Exercise 5:

Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

1. Paul wasn't at the party when I arrived. He'd gone (He /go) home.
2. I felt very tired when I got home, so(I /go) straight to bed.
3. The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
4. Mark travels a lot. When I first met him,(he / already/ travel)
5. Sorry I'm late. The car (break) down on my way here.
6. We were driving along the road when (we /see) a car which..... (break) down,
so (we / stop) to help.