

Grammar reference

1.1 Present simple, present continuous and present perfect simple

GR1.1a)))

- 1 Everyone **needs** friends. Real friends are important.
- 2 I **see** my old school friends every few months. We generally **have** dinner together.
- 3 He **doesn't like** all his Facebook friends.
- 4 **Do you talk** to all your friends regularly?

- We use the present simple to talk about:
 - a things that are always or generally true.
 - b things that happen regularly or repeatedly.

Remember the 's' for the third person singular (*like* → *likes*). Sometimes the spelling changes (*watch* → *watches*, *try* → *tries*).

We use *do/does* to form the present simple negative and questions.

GR1.1b)))

- 1 Please be quiet. I'm **watching** TV.
- 2 We're **learning** about the history of music at school.
- 3 The Earth's temperature **is increasing**.

- We use the present continuous to talk about:
 - a things that are happening at the time when we speak.
 - b things that are happening around the time when we speak.
 - c things that are changing.

We form the present continuous with *be + -ing* form. Be careful with the spelling of *-ing* forms (*begin* → *beginning*, *make* → *making*).

GR1.1c)))

- 1 I've **lived** here all my life.
- 2 **Have** you ever **been** to Brazil?
- 3 **A** Is Marco here? **B** No, he's already **left**.

- We use the present perfect simple to talk about:
 - a things up to now, our experience (our lives until now).
 - b things that have already or just happened.

We form the present perfect with *have + past participle*. The past participle for regular verbs is the same as the past simple form (*live* → *lived*, *work* → *worked*), but some verbs are irregular (e.g. *know* → *knew* → *known*, *eat* → *ate* → *eaten*). See the Irregular verbs list on page 174.

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the text about Facebook.

There ¹*(are)* *are being* over one billion Facebook users worldwide. And this number ²*increases / is increasing* all the time. It is clear that Facebook ³*changes / has changed* the way we ⁴*look / have looked at* friendship. The word 'friend' ⁵*becomes / has become* a verb, and 'friends' now ⁶*include / have included* people we only ⁷*know / are knowing* online and who we ⁸*are never meeting / have never met*. One positive side to Facebook is that friends who ⁹*lose / have lost* contact, often many years ago, ¹⁰*are now able / have now been able* to get in touch again. 'More and more people ¹¹*connect / are connecting* with old friends via Facebook,' says a spokesperson for the website. 'And Facebook also ¹²*means / has meant* that friends never ¹³*need / have needed* to lose touch; people can stay friends for life.'

- 2 Complete the conversations with the present simple, present continuous or present perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 **A** Where *do you work* ?
B Well, normally I _____ in Berlin, but I _____ in Stuttgart at the moment. (work)
- 2 **A** _____ you _____ Jake?
B Yes, we _____ each other for a few years. (know)
- 3 **A** _____ you _____ in London?
B Yes, I do. Actually, I _____ there all my life. (live)
- 4 **A** Jameela's busy at the moment. She _____ a piano lesson.
B Oh yes, of course. She _____ one every Wednesday. (have)
- 5 **A** _____ you _____ Andy yet?
B I _____ him right now, actually. (email)
- 6 **A** How many Facebook friends _____ you _____ ?
B Not many. I think I _____ about fifty or sixty. (have got)
- 7 **A** I _____ for my phone.
B _____ you _____ in the kitchen? I think I saw it in there a few minutes ago. (look)
- 8 **A** You _____ Karen quite often, don't you?
B Usually, yes. But I _____ her for a few weeks now. (see/not see)
- 9 **A** I _____ a great book at the moment – *Tribal Life* by Bruce James. _____ you _____ it?
B No, but I _____ another one of his books. (read)

1.2 State verbs

GR1.2))

- 1 I **think** it's a great idea.
- 2 Do you **want** some coffee?
- 3 Who **does** this bag **belong to**?
- 4 The soup **tastes** delicious.

Most verbs express actions, and we can use them in simple tenses (e.g. *I use the internet all the time*) and continuous tenses (e.g. *I'm using the internet at the moment*).

Some verbs usually express states, such as thoughts, feelings, possession and things we experience. We most often use these verbs in simple tenses, even if we mean 'just now'.

Common state verbs include verbs for:

- how we think
think, know, believe, agree, prefer, understand, mean, imagine, realize, remember, forget, recognize
*Do you **believe** me? I don't **agree**.*
- what we feel
like, dislike, hate, love, want, feel (have an opinion), seem, appear, look, sound, need
*How **do** you **feel** about the news?*
- what we possess
have (got), belong, own, include
***Do** you **have** any money on you?*
- what we experience
be, see, hear, look, smell, taste, seem
*The flowers **smell** really nice.*

Note that we can sometimes use some state verbs, particularly verbs that express how we feel, in continuous tenses when we want to emphasize that the feeling or attitude is temporary.
*I'm **feeling** tired.*

They can also be used in informal speech as a modern idiom.
*I'm **loving** this pizza.*

Some verbs are also used in the present simple and present continuous with different meaning.

*I **have** a headache. (illness)*

*I'm **having** lunch. (action)*

*I **think** it's a great idea. (opinion)*

*I'm **thinking of** getting a new phone. (consider)*

*I **wasn't thinking about** what I was doing.*

1 Choose the correct options.

- 1 A Shall we take a break from bargain hunting and have a coffee?
B That **sounds** / *is sounding* like a good idea.
- 2 A *Do you have* / *Are you having* a few minutes to help me?
B Yeah, sure.
- 3 A *I don't understand* / *'m not understanding*. What *do you mean* / *are you meaning* by 'trending'?
B Oh, don't worry. I'll explain later.
- 4 A *I try* / *'m trying* to download some photos. Can you help me?
B Sure. Do you know why it *isn't working* / *doesn't work*?
A *I think* / *'m thinking* the file's too big. It *looks* / *is looking* like that's what *causes* / *'s causing* the problem.

2 Complete 1–11 using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 This is Carlos. He *comes* (come) from Spain.
- 2 Peter is on his way. He _____ (come) by bus.
- 3 I _____ (see) your point, but I _____ (not/agree) with you.
- 4 You're quiet? What _____ (you/think) about?
- 5 What _____ (you/think) of the new James Bond film?
- 6 I _____ (imagine) you're very tired after your journey.
- 7 Jamal isn't here. He _____ (have) his lunch.
- 8 _____ (anybody/have) any questions?
- 9 The umbrella's not mine. I think it _____ (belong) to Annette.
- 10 Yuck! This soup _____ (taste) horrible. And it _____ (look) disgusting, too.
- 11 I _____ (look) for my keys. _____ (you/know) where they are?

3 Complete the article about online shopping with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

agree be (x2) include increase know make prefer
seem

Online shopping ¹ *seems* to become more popular every year. According to a recent report, over half of US consumers with internet access now ² _____ shopping online, and just 1% say they have never shopped online. Experts ³ _____ that consumers spend on average around \$100 per online order. The most common types of goods bought online ⁴ _____ electronics, books, clothing and household goods.

There are a number of reasons why online shopping ⁵ _____. Cheaper prices and a large variety of products ⁶ _____ the main reasons, according to the survey. The ability to compare products and read reviews ⁷ _____ another reason. Most online shoppers say that they often ⁸ _____ a decision to buy a product when five or more reviewers ⁹ _____ that the product is good value for money.