

# Advanced Grammar

## **LESSON 1:** **Present Continuous and** **Present Simple 1**

# STATE VERBS

We can use the present continuous with the some state verbs. (e.g. **attract, like, look love, sound**) to emphasize that a situation is temporary or for a period of time around the present. Compare:

- ➔ Ella was with use quite often. The children **love** having her here. *and*
- ➔ Ella's with us at the moment. The children are **loving** having her here.



State verbs which we rarely use with the present continuous include:

**believe, consist of, doubt, own**

Some verbs have different meaning when they are used to talk about states and when they describe actions. With their '**state**' meanings, they usually take simple rather than continuous forms. With their '**action**' meanings, they take simple or continuous forms, depending on context. Compare:

- ➔ The app **doesn't appear** to work on my phone. (appear: state = seem) *and*
- ➔ Carley Robb is currently **appearing** in musical on Broadway.  
She often **appears** in musical.  
(appear: action = take part)

*Also: cost, expect, feel, fit, have, Imagine, measure, think weigh*

# MENTAL STATE VERBS

With some verbs describing mental states (e.g. **find realize, regret, think, understand**) we can use the present continuous to emphasize that we have recently started to think about something or that we are not sure about something. Compare:

- ➔ I **regret** that the company will have to be sold.  
(= I've made a decision and I'm sorry about it) *and*
- ➔ I'm **regretting** my decision to give her the job  
(= I'm increasingly aware that it was the wrong decision)

When it means '*think carefully about*', **consider** is only used with present continuous:

- ➔ He's **considering** taking early retirement. (*not* He considers taking early retirement.)

Some other verbs describing preferences and mental states (e.g. **agree, believe, conclude, know, prefer**) are rarely used with present continuous:

- ➔ I believe you now. (**not** I'm believing you now)

# PERFORMATIVES

We use the present simple with verbs which perform the action, they describe (= performatives) :

- ➔ I **suggest** you park outside the city and get the bus to the center.
- ➔ We **request** that you read the terms and conditions carefully before signing.

*Also:* **acknowledge, admit, advise, apologize, beg, confess, congratulate, declare, deny, forbid, guarantee, name, order, permit, predict, promise, refuse, remind, request, thank, warn**

Some verbs used as performances with the present simple and affirmative (= positive) sentences (**apologize, deny, guarantee, promise, suggest**) have similar meaning with either the present simple or the present continuous in negative sentences:

- ➔ I **don't deny** / I'm **not denying** taking the books, but Miguel said it would be okay.

Modals are often used with performances to make what we say more tentative or polite.

- ➔ We **would advise** you to arrive two hours before the flight leaves.
- ➔ I **must beg** you to keep this a secret.

# EXERCISE 1

Use your instinct. Tick the sentences which look OK.  
For those that don't, tick X.



1. He's being very naughty today.
2. She's being very tired at the moment.
3. I'm seeing him at the weekend.
4. I'm seeing someone coming to the front door.
5. This soup is tasking good.
6. She's tasking the soup to make sure it's ready.
7. He's feeling a bit hungover today.
8. This material is feeling like silk.
9. I'm thinking we should go somewhere different this year.
10. He's probably thinking about his next holiday.
11. He's wishing he hadn't said that.
12. We're wishing for good weather for our holiday.
13. She's having a great time in Turkey.
14. She's having her own blog.
15. He's seeming very nice.

# EXERCISE 2

Put the verbs in brackets in their correct form. Some verbs are **stative verbs** and some are **dynamic verbs**. Use the simple present or present progressive tense.

1. Actually, that (sound) wonderful.
2. We (cook) right now.
3. I (promise) to be back soon.
4. Frank and his wife (disagree) on this matter.
5. He (own) several large companies.
6. you (hear) Richard's voice now?
7. you (study) at the moment?
8. I (mean) to hurt you.
9. you (mind) taking out the garbage?
10. I seriously (doubt) it.
11. We (be) at the office right now.
12. I (see) that you are busy at the moment.
13. We (have) a coffee.
14. I (think) that's not true.
15. Joe (be) silly again.
16. I (see) Ben. We have a lot of fun together.
17. Your cooking (taste) great.
18. We (have) three kids.
19. We (taste) the cakes now.
20. I (think) about it at the moment.



**Dynamic** is an adjective which means something is moving or changing. In English grammar a "dynamic verb" means that the verb **describes an action** rather than a state. Dynamic verbs are sometimes known as "action verbs."

# EXERCISE 3

Complete each pair of sentences using the same verb (in question form or negative if necessary) from the box. Use the present continuous; if this is not possible, use the present simple. Add any words outside the gap and use contracted forms where appropriate.

attract    consist of    doubt    feel    fit  
have    like    look    measure    sound

- I hear you're having your house repainted. How's it looking? (or How **does** it look?)
  - I bought this new dress today. How **does** it **look**?
- What are you doing with that ruler?
  - I ..... the area of the kitchen.  
The garden ..... 12 by 20 meters.
- I ..... whether I'll get another chance to retake the exam.
  - I suppose she might be at home tonight, but I ..... it.
- The new science museum currently ..... 10,000 visitors a month.
  - Flowers ..... bees with their brightly-colored petals.

## EXERCISE 3 cont.

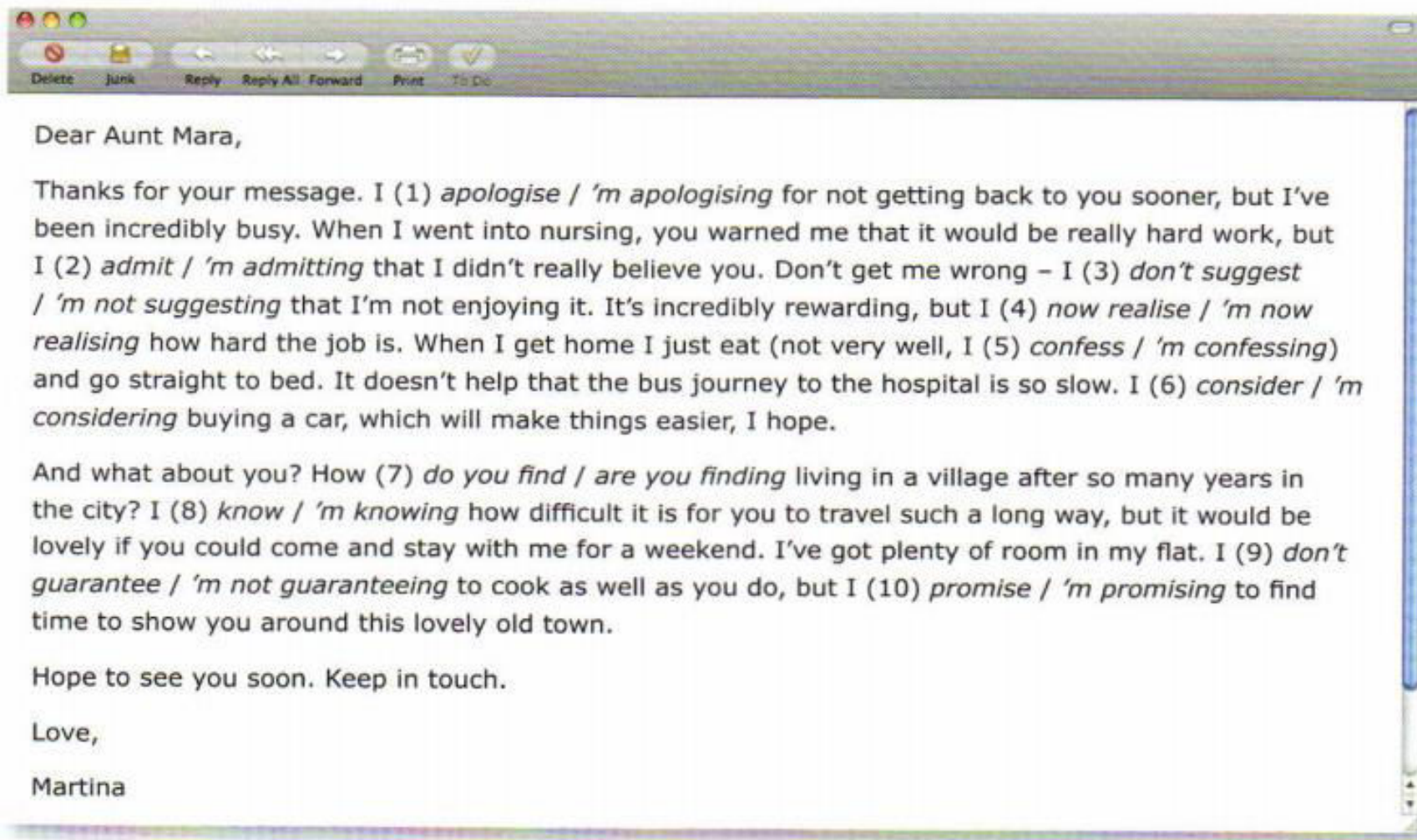
5. Carlos won't work at the top of the 20-storey building because he ..... heights.  
a. How's the new job?    b. Well, at the moment, I ..... it at all.
6. a. My car's in the garage today. They ..... new brakes.  
b. I bought this jumper for Anna, but it ..... her so I'll have to take it back.
7. a. What's your shirt made from? It ..... like silk.  
b. I won't be coming to work today. I ..... very well.
8. a. The roof of the house ..... only plastic sheets nailed down in a few places.  
b. Their school uniform ..... black trousers and a dark green jumper.
9. Simon's new song ..... quite good, but he doesn't think he's quite ready yet to perform in public.  
a. What's the noise?                      b. It ..... like a bird stuck in the chimney.
10. a. Poulson ..... treatment for the knee injury, but should be fit to play on Saturday.  
b. My sister ..... long blonde hair. You're bound to recognize her.

attract	consist of	doubt	feel	fit
have	like	look	measure	sound



# EXERCISE 4

Cross out any improbable answers.



# The End

Next: Lesson 2

Present Continuous and

Present Simple 2