

CANADIAN GRAMMAR SPECTRUM

REFERENCE AND PRACTICE

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Simple Present

- 1 We use the Simple Present:
 - ▶ to talk about feelings and opinions:



I like pop music. I don't like classical music. She loves lacrosse!
Philip wants a new car.
I don't want a cup of coffee, thanks.
He feels sick.

▶ to talk about thoughts:



I don't think she likes her new job. I don't know the answer. He doesn't understand me. 2 We form Simple Present questions like this:

QUESTIO	NS	
Singular	Do	I/you know?
	Does	he/she/it \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Plural	Do	we)
	Do	you know ?
	Do	they

Note that we put do before I/you/we/they:

Do you speak Spanish?

Do you work downtown?

Do they know the answer?

We put does before he/she/it:

Does he walk to work?

Does Steve enjoy his job?

Does she play the piano?

Note that we say:

Does he walk? (NOT Does he walks?)

Practice

A Write the words from the box in the correct form. Use the Simple Present. Use each verb once.

	ride see have n	ot taste want	enjoy	drink	not like	
	► He wants to work as a	librarian, because	e he enjoy	/5	oooks.	
	1 Wow! You can	the Northerr	ı Lights fr	om here.		
	2 They love their dog, but	it they	cats.			
	3 Is there sugar in this? I	l any	' .			
	4 Barry his	snowmobile almo	st every o	day in the	winter.	
	5 Let's invite Marcel to go	o with us. Do you		his r	number?	
	6 My mom	a cup of coffee be	fore work	k every m	orning.	
	7 We to see	e your new apartm	nent this v	weekend		
В	Write sentences about N	⁄lonique. (✓ = lik	es, 🗸 =	loves, X	= does not	like, XX = hates)
	► (coffee X)	She doesn't lik	e coffee.			
	► (swimming ✓)					
	1 (her job ✓✓)					
	2 (cold weather XX)	She				
	3 (reading ✓)					
	4 (basketball XX)					
	5 (mushrooms X)					
	6 (learning languages 🗸	√)				

This is an i				himself	and his	brother,	Ken.	vvrite	the
1 .	1.11.1	1.1	 •	 				•	

have any children	drink a lot of pop	play cards	work at a car factory
exercise often	live in Saskatchewan	play soccer	enjoy public speaking
like sailing	like travelling	live in an apartment	like scary movies
have a car	speak any foreign langu	ıages	

	QUESTIONS		ANSWERS
\blacktriangleright	Do you work at a car factory	? ~	No, I work in a restaurant.
\blacktriangleright	Does Ken drink a lot of pop	? ~	Yes, he drinks some every day.
1		? ~	Yes, I sail very often in the summer.
2		? ~	Yes, I like to play euchre.
3		? ~	No, he lives in Manitoba.
4		? ~	Yes, I have a small convertible.
5		? ~	No, he doesn't play soccer.
6		? ~	Yes, I can speak Italian and Spanish.
7		? ~	No, he doesn't have any children.
8		? ~	No, I prefer comedies.
9		? ~	Yes, he goes to the gym very often.
10		? ~	No, I hate speaking to large groups.
11		? ~	Yes, I live in an apartment on Beech Street.
12		? ~	No, he likes to stay at home.

D You are on vacation, and you are at a Tourist Information Centre. Ask questions using the table below.

Α	В	С	
Do	you	speak English?	
Does	the volcano	ever get cooler?	
	the bus	become dangerous at night?	
	the tour guides	sell maps of the city?	
	that restaurant	require reservations?	
	the temperature	erupt often?	
	the locals	have a favourite bar?	
	this area	stop in front of my hotel?	

	Do you sell maps of the city?
1	the volcano
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
ı	

Present Progressive

- 1 Look at these questions: Are you enjoying that drink, Ann? Is he watching TV at the moment? Are they working hard?
- 2 We form Present Progressive questions like this:

S	
Am I)
Are you	winning?
Is she/he/it	J
Are we)
Are you	winning?
Are they	J
	Are you Is she/he/it Are we Are you

3 Here are two common Present Progressive questions. They both mean "How are you?": How's it going?

How are you doing?



- **4** We do not usually use the Present Progressive to talk about opinions or thoughts:
 - I like tennis. I know your sister. (NOT I'm liking tennis. I'm knowing your sister.)

We do not usually use these verbs in the Present Progressive:

like	know	hate
love	understand	believe
mean	remember	want

- 5 think and have:
 - ► we cannot use **think** in the Present Progressive to express opinions: *I think he's nice*. (NOT *I'm thinking he's nice*.)
 - we can use think in the Present Progressive to talk about an action: She's thinking about the movie.
 - ► we cannot use have in the Present Progressive to talk about possessions: I have a ticket. (NOT I am having a ticket.)
 - we can use it to talk about actions: *I'm having breakfast. He's having fun.*

Practice

Α	Write questions b	y putting the	words in p	parentheses	() in [·]	the correc	t order
---	-------------------	---------------	------------	-------------	---------------------	------------	---------

	(enjoying – your work – you – are – ?)	Are you enjoying your work?
1	(making cookies – are – they – ?)	
2	(is – getting angry – your boss – ?)	
3	(playing well – am – I – ?)	
4	(your brother – is – leaving – ?)	
5	(they – are – singing – in the concert – ?)	
6	(we – are – moving – ?)	
7	(is - up north - he - skiing - ?)	
8	(is – visiting her cousin – she – ?)	
9	(having – are – dinner with Scott – we – ?)	
10	(speaking clearly – I – am – ?)	

В	Write	questions and answers. Use the Present Progressive.			
	QUI	ESTIONS ANSWERS			
	•	ne/work/in Peru this year?) ~ (No, she/study/in Mexico)			
		she working in Peru this year? ————————————————————————————————————			
	•	ey/speak/Japanese?) ~ (No, they/speak/Korean)			
	2 (yc	ou/read/right now?) ~ (Yes, I/read/great novel) ~			
	3 (Sh	hea/run/in this blizzard?) ~ (No, he/nap/on the couch) ~			
		ou/write/email to Igor?) ~ (Yes, I/tell/him about my vacation) ~			
	5 (CI	laudia/dance/at the festival today?) ~ (No, she/work/at the information booth) ~			
С	Put a	check (✓) next to a correct sentence, and an X (✗) next to an incorrect sentence	e.		
	▶ Sh	ne's liking pop music. X			
		s's learning French. ✓			
		ey're wanting to leave now. 6 She's walking through the field.			
		n having a great time. 7 I am meaning to tell him the story. 8 We're painting the barn.			
		iulo is believing everything he hears. 9 Yvonne is liking to ride horses.			
		dad is worrying about the weather. 10 He's knowing my history teacher.			
D	Complete this conversation. Use the verbs in parentheses () in the Present Progressive				
	Emil:	Hi, Jenna. What's up?			
	Jenna	a: (▶)!'m gọing (I/go) to my weekly cooking class.			
	Emil:	That's great! I didn't know you liked to cook. (1) (you/enjoy) the classes?			
	Jenna	a: Of course. (2) (I/learn) a lot and, best of all, (3) (I/eat) lots of wonderful food.			
	Emil:	And I'm sure (4) (you/meet) other people who love to cook! What (5) (you/make) this week?			
	Jenna	a: Our instructor (6) (teach) us how to make perfect Peking duck. (7) (I/look) forward to it! What (8) (you/do) tonight?			
	Emil:	Well, Jimmy and I (9) (go) to a basketball game. Then (10) (we/go) to the blues bar on Queen Street where Jimmy's brother (11) (play) the saxophone.			

Simple Present or Present Progressive

Compare the Simple Present and the Present Progressive:

- 1 We use the Simple Present to talk about facts (things which are true at any time):

 Anna speaks good Mandarin.

 Journalists write newspaper articles.

 I come from Norway. (= I am Norwegian).
- 2 We use the Simple Present for situations that exist over a long time, and for actions that are repeated (e.g. people's habits, or events on a timetable):

Mike works for an advertising company. He lives in Vancouver. (= His home is in Vancouver.)



Jane travels a lot for her job. I play a lot of sports.

We can use words like usually, often, every: We usually go out to dinner on weekends. I often go to baseball games on Sundays. The buses leave every hour.

- 3 We use the Simple Present with thinking and feeling verbs (e.g. know, forget, notice, understand, recognize, remember, like, love, hate, want, prefer, need):
 - I don't know which train to catch.
- 4 We use have in the Simple Present to talk about possession:

I have a new car.

We use think in the Simple Present to express opinions:

I think she's interesting.

We use the Present Progressive to talk about actions in progress at the time of speaking:

Anna's busy. She's speaking on the phone.

What are you writing? ~ A letter to Jane.

Look! The bus is coming.

We use the Present Progressive for things that continue for a limited period of time around now (e.g. vacations, visits, temporary jobs, school or university courses):

John **is working** in the US for six months. He**'s living** in New York.



Jane's travelling around Europe for a month. I'm doing a one-year course in tourism.
We're painting the apartment.

We do not usually use the Present Progressive with thinking and feeling verbs:

NOT I'm knowing someone who lives in Venice.

We use **have** and **think** in the Present Progressive to talk about actions:

I'm having fun.

He can't come, he's having dinner at the moment. I am thinking about my work.

Practice

Α	Complete the sentences with the Simple Present (I do) or the Present Progressive
	(I am doing).

	I leave (leave) home at seven o'clock every morning.
1	I (look) for a book about Aboriginal history, but I can't
	(find) the one I want.
2	She (paint) a portrait of Maxine.
3	Francisco (want) a new car but he doesn't (have)
	enough money.

	5 6 7 8	I
		Kyle (invite) 70 people to his birthday party. You (look) exhausted. You (work) too hard this week
В	ou	is is Grace's first letter in English to Jerome. There are some mistakes in it. Cross t the incorrect verb forms and write in the correct form. Put a check (\checkmark) if the form the verb is correct.
	on Sc tim sk lea	l am staying (▶)
С	W	ite the sentences using the Simple Present or the Present Progressive.
	•	(Usually she/work/at the office, but this week she/work/at home)
	1	Usually she works at the office, but this week she's working at home. (I/smell/something spicy. Dad must/make/chili)
	2	(Wendy/have/an appointment this afternoon)
	3	(He/work/late again because he/have/an important meeting to prepare for)
	4	(You/speak/very loudly right now. Is your hearing okay?)
	5	(We/build/a snowman. You should come and help us!)
	6	(She/walk/to work every morning)
	7	(I/watch/my favourite TV show right now)
	8	(The wind/blow/the leaves everywhere)