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Grammar Reference

1. Grammar Reference (Please remember that this grammar reference section is not a lesson plan for teachers. In fact, it is and should be designed in such a way that students can comprehend the grammar points on their own.)

Auxiliary verbs

The auxiliary verbs “do”, “be”, and “have” are used to form tenses and make questions, short answers, and negatives.

Does he drive? Yes, he **does**. No, he **doesn't**.

When **do** you have lunch?

I **don't** have lunch.

The verb “do” is used as the auxiliary verb with the “simple” tenses, except if the main verb is “be”.

Are you hungry? Not: ~~Do~~ you hungry?

The verb “be” is used with “continuous” forms.

I **am (not)** studying English.

Are you studying? Yes, I **am**. No, I'm not.

Simple present and present continuous

The simple present is used for:

1. habits and routines
David **starts** work at eight o'clock.
2. things that are always true or permanent
Cambodia **is** a hot country.
3. describing a state or situation
Lisa **is** really happy about her new promotion.

The present continuous is used for:

1. things that are happening now at this exact moment.
David **is taking** a shower.

2. temporary situations that are happening around now (but not at this exact moment)

I **am learning** Microsoft Word for my new job.

Note: Some verbs are used in the simple present and present continuous with different meanings.

We're **having** a wonderful holiday. (In this case, the verb "have" refers to an action/experience, thus it can be used in the continuous.)

We **have** a lovely house by the sea. (Here, the verb "have" refers to possession, thus it can't be used in the continuous.)

Remember: Here are some of the verbs that are not usually used in the continuous form: *like, love, hate, have (possess), need, want, prefer, find, know, realize, believe, understand, remember, seem, suppose, mean, see, hear, smell, taste.*

Present perfect and simple past

The present perfect is used to describe:

1. an action that started in the past and continues in the present (unfinished time).

I **have known** him since I was 8 years old. (I met him when I was 8 years old and I still know him.)

2. an action that happened in the past but has a result in the present (present result).

David **has left** his watch at home. (He doesn't have it now.)

The simple past is used to talk about something that happened at a specific time in the past.

My father **called** me yesterday.

Note: "For" and "since" are often used with the present perfect. "For" is used with a period of time and "since" is used with a point in time.

I've known David **for** two years/**since** 2016