

Present tenses (**I am doing / I do**) for the future**A** Present continuous (**I am doing**) with a future meaning

This is Ben's diary for next week.

He **is playing** tennis on Monday afternoon.

He **is going** to the dentist on Tuesday morning.

He **is meeting** Kate on Friday.

In all these examples, Ben has already decided and arranged to do these things.

**I'm doing** something (tomorrow etc.) = I have already decided and arranged to do it:

- ☐ A: What **are you doing** on Saturday evening? (*not* What do you do)
- B: **I'm going** to the cinema. (*not* I go)
- ☐ A: What time **is** Katherine **arriving** tomorrow?
- B: Half past ten. We **'re meeting** her at the station.
- ☐ **I'm not working** tomorrow, so we can go out somewhere.
- ☐ Steve **isn't playing** football next Saturday. He's hurt his leg.

We do not normally use **will** to talk about what we have arranged to do:

- ☐ What **are you doing** tonight? (*not* What will you do)
- ☐ Alex **is getting** married next month. (*not* will get)

We also use the present continuous for an action *just before you start to do it*. This happens especially with verbs of movement (**go/come/leave** etc.):

- ☐ I'm tired. **I'm going** to bed now. Goodnight. (*not* I go to bed now)
- ☐ 'Tina, are you ready yet?' 'Yes, **I'm coming**.' (*not* I come)

**B** Present simple (**I do**) with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we talk about timetables and programmes (for example, transport or cinema times):

- ☐ I have to go. My train **leaves** at 11.30.
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start** tonight?
- ☐ The meeting **is** at nine o'clock tomorrow.

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable:

- ☐ I **start** my new job on Monday.
- ☐ What time **do** you **finish** work tomorrow?

But the continuous is more usual for other personal arrangements:

- ☐ What time **are you meeting** Kate tomorrow? (*not* do you meet)

Compare:

*Present continuous*

- ☐ What time **are you arriving**?
- ☐ **I'm going** to the cinema this evening.

*Present simple*

- ☐ What time **does** the train **arrive**?
- ☐ The film **starts** at 8.15.

When you talk about appointments, lessons, exams etc., you can use **I have** or **I've got**:

- ☐ **I have** an exam next week. or **I've got** an exam next week.

## Exercises

## 19.1 Ask Anna about her holiday plans.



ANNA

- 1 (where / go?) *Where are you going?*
- 2 (how long / go for?) .....
- 3 (when / leave?) .....
- 4 (go / alone?) .....
- 5 (travel / by car?) .....
- 6 (where / stay?) .....

Scotland.  
Ten days.  
Next Friday.  
No, with a friend.  
No, by train.  
In a hotel.

## 19.2 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Steve *isn't playing* (not / play) football on Saturday. He's hurt his leg.
- 2 ..... (We / have) a party next week. We've invited all our friends.
- 3 ..... (I / not / work) tomorrow. It's a public holiday.
- 4 ..... (I / leave) now. I've come to say goodbye.
- 5 'What time ..... (you / go) out this evening?' 'Seven o'clock.'
- 6 ..... (Laura / not / come) to the party tomorrow. She isn't well.
- 7 I love New York. .... (I / go) there soon.
- 8 Ben can't meet us on Monday. .... (He / work) late.

## 19.3 Have you arranged to do anything at these times? Write sentences about yourself.

- 1 (this evening) *I'm not doing anything this evening.*
- 2 (tomorrow morning) I .....
- 3 (tomorrow evening) I .....
- 4 (next Sunday) I .....
- 5 (another day or time) .....

## 19.4 Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous or present simple.

- 1 A: Tina, are you ready yet?  
B: Yes, *I'm coming* (I / come).
- 2 A: ..... (you / go) to Sam's party on Saturday?  
B: No, I haven't been invited.
- 3 A: Has Jack moved into his new apartment yet?  
B: Not yet, but ..... (he / move) soon – probably at the end of the month.
- 4 A: ..... (I / go) to a concert tonight.  
B: That's nice. What time ..... (it / start)?
- 5 A: Have you seen Chris recently?  
B: No, but ..... (we / meet) for lunch next week.
- 6 A: ..... (you / do) anything tomorrow morning?  
B: No, I'm free. Why?
- 7 A: When ..... (this term / end)?  
B: Next Friday. And next term ..... (start) four weeks after that.
- 8 A: ..... (We / go) to a wedding at the weekend.  
B: Really? ..... (Who / get) married?
- 9 A: There's football on TV later tonight. .... (you / watch) it?  
B: No, I'm not interested.
- 10 A: What time is your train tomorrow?  
B: It ..... (leave) at 9.35 and ..... (arrive) at 12.47.
- 11 A: I'd like to go and see the exhibition at the museum. How long is it on for?  
B: ..... (It / finish) next week.
- 12 A: Do you need the car this evening?  
B: No, you can have it. .... (I / not / use) it.