



Simple present and present continuous

- 1 Read these sentences taken from the audio about how to rap Shakespeare and identify the verb tenses – simple present or present continuous?

First, you **have** to pick a play or a sonnet. [...] I'm picking Hamlet because it's the greatest play ever.

- 2 Based on the examples and on your previous experience, identify which rules are connected to the simple present (SP) or to the present continuous (PC).

- a) () It tells us about facts, habits, and general truths.
 b) () It describes activities in progress.
 c) () It's used to describe regular actions, routines.
 d) () It expresses actions happening at the moment of speech.



- 3 Now, you've reviewed the meaning and uses of the present tenses, let's check out their forms. Read the examples and answer the questions about the simple present.

Simple present

Routine, habits, facts and general truths.

Affirmative

- I **need** a copy of Romeo and Juliet, but it **needs** to be written in texting language.

What's the difference between the verbs in bold?

Negative

- Richard **doesn't have** a copy of the play yet.
- I **don't like** tragedies, but I love comedies.

How is the negative form structured?

Questions and short answers

- **Do** we all have tickets for the Broadway show?
Yes, we **do**.
- **Does** Jessica sing and dance in the play too?
No, she **doesn't**.

How do we ask questions in the simple present? What's the word order?

What are the short answers like (when a Yes/No question is asked)?

Pay attention! Don't use auxiliaries (do or does) with the verb **be**. For negative sentences, just add **not** (or its contracted forms) after the verb be.

- It **is not (isn't)** a comedy, but a tragedy.
For questions, use the verb be before the subject.
- **Is this** play a comedy or a tragedy?

- 4** What about the present continuous? Check some other sentences and underline the option that best completes them.

Present continuous

Ongoing situations happening at the moment of speaking.

Affirmative

- The dancers **are performing** Romeo and Juliet.
- Matt **is reading** a Shakespeare's play for his acting class.

To make affirmative sentences in the present continuous, use **do/be + verb with -ing/-s**.

Negative

- Alfred **isn't coming** to the theater because his car broke down.
- Monica and Joseph **aren't laughing** at stand-up jokes.

For negative statements, add **not/don't** to the **verb be/base form**.



@Shutterstock/rim Santa Maria

