

# Simple present and present continuous

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.
- 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 subect.
- Is this play a comedy or a tragedy?
- 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.



## Questions and short answers

- Is Daniela checking the teather schedule right now?
   Yes, she is.
- Are our teachers quoting Hamlet for our parents?
   No, they aren't.

g) for 2 hours – play the guitar – I – everyday

To ask questions, verb be comes **before/after** the subject followed by the base form with -ing.

| A                   | tivities  |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Ch a) b) c) d) e) | Sugestão de abordagem da atividade. hoose the option that best completes each line of the conversation.  Hey, Chris! What?  ( ) do you do |
|                     | never – is – Bob – to school – late   |
| b)                  | her grandma's hometown – Luiza – does – travel to – on summertime – ?  Does Luiza travel to her grandma's hometown on summertime?         |
| c)                  | texting – Ishmael – about the party – is – his friends –?  Is Ishmael texting his friends about the party?                                |
| d)                  | have dinner – my parents – at home – don't  |
| e)                  | aren't studying – this semester – at the same class – they  |
| f)                  | your siblings – as we speak – playing video game – are – ?  |