

C.N. GRIVAS

GRAMMAR

in **FOCUS**

B2



GRAMMAR

in **FOCUS**



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1 Simple Present

1 for habitual actions or permanent states	<i>Joe takes the train to work every day. My grandparents live on a farm.</i>
2 in timetables and programmes with a future meaning (usu. with verbs of motion)	<i>Our bus leaves at 7.00 tomorrow morning. School starts on the 16th this year.</i>
3 in sports commentaries	<i>Hunter steals the ball and passes to Mitchell who shoots ... and misses.</i>
4 in narratives or when we summarise the plot of a film / book	<i>Rachel opens her eyes and looks around. 'Where am I?' she wonders. Chris is a teenage boy who moves to a small town with his family.</i>
5 in newspaper headlines	<i>CRUISE SHIP SINKS OFF THE COAST OF ITALY</i>
6 with the verbs come and go in exclamatory structures starting with 'Here' or 'There'	<i>Here comes Claire! Here she comes! There goes the last train! There it goes!</i>
7 when giving instructions or demonstrating sth	<i>Look. I turn on the power, then I choose the temperature and ...</i>

2 Present Continuous

1 for actions happening at or around the time of speaking	<i>Be quiet! The baby is sleeping. We're working on a new project this month.</i>
2 for arranged or planned actions for the near future (often with verbs of motion)	<i>We're going to a concert this weekend. What are you doing tomorrow evening?</i>
3 for temporary repeated actions	<i>My car has broken down so I'm taking the bus to work this week.</i>
4 for changing or developing situations	<i>His condition is improving every day and he'll be out of hospital soon.</i>
5 with always , constantly , continually or forever to stress that the action happens very or too often (usu. to express annoyance)	<i>I'm always running into Jane when I go to the mall. You're constantly interrupting me when I speak.</i>

NOTE:

1 With stative verbs (i.e. verbs that describe a state rather than an action) such as: **see**, **hear**, **smell**, **taste**, **like**, **love**, **hate**, **prefer**, **want**, **think**, **believe**, **remember**, **forget**, **understand**, **have**, **possess**, **need**, **belong**, etc. we do not use continuous tenses.

I don't believe you.

I understand now what the problem is.

However, some of these verbs can be used with continuous tenses, but the meaning changes.

COMPARE:

■ *Look at this picture and tell me what you see.*

Do you see what I mean? (= understand)

Are you seeing Dave tonight? (= meeting)

I'm seeing the dentist tomorrow.

(= having an appointment with)

■ *This pie smells / tastes fantastic.*

(= has a fantastic smell / taste)

She is smelling / tasting the soup.

(= checking the smell / taste of)

■ *I think she's a great actress.*

We're thinking of going abroad this Christmas.

(= considering)

■ *I don't have much free time.*

He's having breakfast / coffee / a shower, etc.

(eating / drinking / taking)

Are you having fun / a good time? (= enjoying yourself)

ALSO: *She is silly.* (it's her nature)

She is being silly now. (behaving in a silly way at the moment)

2 We can use either the simple present or the present continuous with the verbs **hurt**, **ache** and **feel** with no difference in meaning.

My tooth hurts / is hurting.

Do you feel / Are you feeling better today?

3 Simple Present Perfect

1 for an action that happened in the past but we do not say when	<i>Mum has baked a cake.</i>
2 with today, this morning / afternoon, etc., this week / month, etc. when the time period is not finished yet	<i>I've had three cups of coffee this morning.</i> (= it is still morning) BUT: <i>I had three cups of coffee this morning.</i> (= it is afternoon / evening now)
3 with ever, never, already, yet, just, before, lately, recently, so far, up to now, until now, etc.	<i>I've already seen this film.</i> <i>Have you spoken to Janet recently?</i> <i>How many exercises have you done so far?</i>
4 with: it / this is the first / second / only etc. time and: this / it / he etc. is + superlative form	<i>This is the first time we've visited Prague.</i> <i>She is the most amazing woman I've ever met.</i>

NOTE:

- I haven't spoken to Jake since the party.*
NOT: ~~I have to speak to Jake ...~~
- It has been (OR: It is) a long time since I have sent (OR: sent) her an email.*
NOT: ... since I haven't sent / didn't send her ...
How long has it been (OR: is it) since you have heard (OR: heard) from Tina?
- have gone to – have been to – have been in**
Chris has gone to Italy. (He is in Italy now.)
Chris has been to Italy. (He has visited Italy.)
Chris has been in Italy for a month. (He went to Italy a month ago and is still there now.)

4 Present Perfect Continuous

1 for an action that started in the past and is still continuing (with emphasis on duration)	<i>She's been studying German since June / for four months.</i>
2 for a past action of certain duration which has just stopped and has visible results in the present	<i>You look upset. Have you been arguing with your sister again?</i>
3 to express irritation, annoyance, anger or surprise about a recent past action	<i>Who has been using my tablet? The battery has run down.</i>

NOTE:

- for + period of time**
for (two) hours / days / weeks, etc., for a long time, for ages, etc.
since + starting point in the past
since twelve o'clock, since Monday, since yesterday, since last week, since 2009, etc.
- We use the **simple present perfect** with stative verbs.
I have known Luke for almost ten years.
We have had this car since 2005.
- With some verbs such as **live, work, study, teach** we can use either the simple present perfect or the present perfect continuous.
They have lived / have been living here for two years.

1 Fill in the simple present or the present continuous.

- The film **(not start)** until 9 o'clock so we've got plenty of time.
- Why that dog constantly **(bark)**?
- Mike usually **(not go)** away for the weekend but this weekend he **(visit)** some friends in Cardiff.
- Light **(travel)** faster than sound.
- The fact that our planet **(get)** warmer at such a fast rate is cause for concern.
- My grandparents **(stay)** with us for a few days.
- She **(cry)** every time she **(watch)** sad films.
- Listen! Someone **(shout)** for help.

2 Fill in the simple present or the present continuous.

- I (see) Sophie tonight. We'll probably go to the cinema.
- I (not hate) maths. I just (not understand) it.
- Sarah (taste) the food to see if it's ready.
- you (have) any money with you? I (need) to borrow £5.
- I (see) what you mean but I (think) you're wrong.
- Why you (smell) the cheese? Has it gone bad?
- We (think) of throwing a surprise party for Nick's birthday.
- Mum, what we (have) for dinner tonight?
- Why you (be) so rude to her? It's not like you to behave like that.
- you (hear) that? It sounds like a baby crying.

3 Fill in the simple present perfect or the present perfect continuous.



- 'This is the first time I (try) snowboarding.' 'Really? Are you enjoying it?'
- I've got a terrible headache. I (work) on the computer all evening.
- You're late again. We (wait) for you for twenty minutes.
- How long Alex (go) out with Laura?
- Janet (call) Brian all day but he's not answering.
- Susan, you (spend) too much money this month.
- you (hear) the news? Mandy (break) her leg and will be off school for two weeks.
- '..... Pam (leave) yet?' 'No, I think she's still here.'

4 Choose the correct answer.

- He **works / has been working** here for three years.
- How many times have you **been / gone** to London?
- Here **is coming / comes** the teacher!
- This cake **tastes / is tasting** really good!
- At the beginning of the film, Harry **is meeting / meets** a beautiful girl at the train station and **is offering / offers** to help her carry her bags.
- This is the second time I **lose / have lost** my keys.
- I **study / am studying** at the library every day this week because it's too noisy at home.
- The Taylors **have been to / have been in** Paris for ten days.
- It's been ages since I **have read / haven't read** a really good book.
- Who **uses / has been using** my shampoo? The bottle is almost empty.
- I **haven't been / 'm not** sleeping very well recently, that's why I'm so tired.
- I **have to see / haven't seen** John for days.

5 Fill in the correct present tense.

- '..... you (finish) with the newspaper?' 'Yes, you can take it.'
- The police (look) for the missing boy for days but they (not find) him yet.
- The situation (get) worse as time goes by.
- Greg (have) this watch since he was ten years old.
- He always (leave) his clothes on the floor and it drives his mum mad.
- 'Does anyone know who this wallet (belong) to?' 'Yes, it's mine.'
- Miss Moore (teach) in this school for thirty years.
- Fiona (try) really hard at school this term.
- The village is cut off as it (snow) for three days.
- This is the most exciting thing I ever (do).
- First you (mix) the sugar with the eggs. Then you (add) the flour.
- 'I (see) the bank manager for a loan tomorrow.' 'Good luck with that.'

6 Fill in the correct word / phrase from the box.

at the moment • always • for • just • already • lately • so far • since • yet • seldom

Hi Pete,

How's everything? It's been a long time (1) I've heard from you. How are you finding your new school? Have you made any new friends (2) ? Things here are much the same. I've been studying really hard (3) and I've managed to pass all my exams (4) , although I still have a few more to take. The problem is that I (5) have any free time and I don't go out very often. I'm also working on my science project (6) , which I must hand in by the end of the month. You know how Miss Newton is – she's (7) giving us projects. Anyway, I've (8) done most of it so I'm sure I'll have it ready by then. By the way, have you heard from Sam? I haven't spoken to him (9) ages! I hope he's OK. I have to go now as my mum has (10) served dinner and I'm starving.

Bye for now,
Steve

7 Read the text below and choose the correct answer.



The life of a circus performer is by no means an easy one and nobody (1) that better than Marc Austin, a twenty-three-year-old acrobat with the world-famous Cirque du Soleil. Marc (2) with this particular circus company (3) just over two years now and says he absolutely (4) it. This is amazing considering the fact that his strict training programme means that he (5) much time for a social life. 'It has been about three weeks (6) I last went out,' he says with a smile. 'But I don't mind because I find this lifestyle so fulfilling that I don't really miss it. I (7) the stage with seventy other acrobats and I must say we do have a lot of fun.' Apart from that, he (8) to over five other cities in the past four months. 'Next week we (9) in Quebec where the idea for the Cirque du Soleil was born and I just can't wait. You see, I (10) visiting the city as a child and I am looking forward to seeing how it has changed,' he says happily.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 a is knowing | b knows | c has known |
| 2 a has been working | b works | c is working |
| 3 a since | b from | c for |
| 4 a loves | b is loving | c has been loving |
| 5 a hasn't had | b isn't having | c doesn't have |
| 6 a that | b before | c since |
| 7 a share | b am sharing | c have shared |
| 8 a has been travelling | b travels | c has travelled |
| 9 a perform | b are performing | c have been performing |
| 10 a am remembering | b remember | c have been remembering |

8 Choose the sentence A, B, C or D, which is closest in meaning to the first.

- It's been raining for three days.
 - The rain stopped three days ago.
 - It started raining three days ago and it is still raining.
 - It rained three days ago.
 - The rain started three days ago but has stopped now.
- I've never ridden a horse before.
 - This is the first time I've ridden a horse.
 - I couldn't ride a horse before.
 - I've only ridden a horse once before.
 - I seldom ride a horse.
- He's been in Canada for a long time.
 - He has visited Canada many times.
 - He often goes to Canada.
 - He spent some time in Canada and is now back.
 - He is in Canada.
- She hasn't finished cleaning the windows.
 - She isn't cleaning the windows at the moment.
 - She is still cleaning the windows.
 - She cleans the windows quite often.
 - She has just started cleaning the windows.
- My brother rarely tidies his room.
 - My brother doesn't tidy his room.
 - My brother is tidying his room at the moment.
 - My brother hardly ever tidies his room.
 - My brother tidies his room quite often.

9 Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word given. [See Appendix 1 at back of book.]

- 1 The last time they went out for dinner was two months ago.
BEEN They
..... for dinner for two months.
- 2 I started learning French two years ago.
LEARNING I
..... two years.
- 3 He hasn't called me back yet.
STILL I
..... for him to call me back.
- 4 I met Alison seven years ago.
KNOWN I
..... seven years.
- 5 Paul hasn't contacted us for a long time.
SINCE It's
..... Paul contacted us.
- 6 I've never met such friendly people.
FIRST It is the
..... such friendly people.
- 7 The Gordons have visited Egypt many times.
HAVE The Gordons
..... Egypt many times.
- 8 He plans to take driving lessons this year.
THINKING He
..... driving lessons this year.
- 9 I have never heard a sillier excuse.
SILLIEST This is the
..... heard.
- 10 I'm tired of you criticising me all the time.
ALWAYS Why
..... me?
- 11 I bought this phone at Christmas.
HAVE I
..... Christmas.
- 12 Carlos came to Greece four months ago.
HAS Carlos
..... Greece for four months.

10 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Please stop. You about something.
a complain always c are always complaining
b always complaining d always are complaining
- 2 How many students on the school trip next week?
a go c have been going
b have gone d are going
- 3 Maria the supermarket. She'll be back in an hour.
a has been to c has been in
b has gone to d is gone to
- 4 The show at 9.00 but we must be there at 8.30.
a starts c starting
b is started d has started
- 5 'Why are you so upset?' 'I with my parents again.'
a have been arguing c am arguing
b have argued d argue
- 6 'Do you like the book?' 'Well, I've only read two chapters'
a already c so far
b yet d just
- 7 Dad until 8.00 every day this week.
a works c is working
b has worked d working
- 8 Cathy dancing lessons for five months now.
a has taken c takes
b has been taking d is taking
- 9 This is the most exciting computer game I
a ever play c have ever been playing
b am ever playing d have ever played
- 10 How long a member of this club?
a are you c have you been
b are you being d have you being
- 11 Mr Walters has been running this shop 2009.
a from c before
b since d until
- 12 We with my aunt and uncle while our house is being painted.
a have stayed c staying
b stay d are staying
- 13 'What of *One Direction*?' 'I love them. They're my favourite group.'
a do you think c have you thought
b are you thinking d have you been thinking
- 14 Patrick hard before exams. That's why he gets good marks.
a is always studying c studies always
b has always studied d always studies
- 15 Bob, this is the third time you your glasses. You have to be more careful.
a have been breaking c break
b are breaking d have broken
- 16 'Do you exercise regularly?' 'Yes. I to the gym three times a week.'
a am going c have gone
b go d have been
- 17 I Thomas since he was a baby.
a know c have been knowing
b am knowing d have known
- 18 Cathy as a waitress until she finds something better.
a is working c has worked
b works d working
- 19 'I can't believe you haven't made your bed.' 'I'll do it now, Mum.'
a just c still
b already d yet
- 20 'Do you ever go abroad at Christmas?' 'No, we'
a never do c don't never
b do never d don't ever

11 PHRASAL VERBS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 add up = make sense; seem reasonable | 6 be down with = be sick with |
| 2 back out = decide not to do sth you had promised / agreed to do | 7 be into sth = like or be interested in sth |
| 3 back sb / sth up = say or show that what sb says is true | 8 be off = (of food) have gone bad |
| 4 be after = try to get or obtain sth | 9 be up to = be engaged in sth (<i>usu. bad</i>) |
| 5 be behind with = be late or delayed (esp. with payments) | 10 blow up = cause to explode |

Fill in the correct **phrasal verb** in the appropriate form.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Mike the flu; that's why he didn't come to work. | 6 We the rent again; we should have paid it last week. |
| 2 It was only when I found out all the details that things began to | 7 The children are unusually quiet. I wonder what they |
| 3 'Do you like this group?' 'Not really. I not hip hop music.' | 8 There was no evidence to her story. |
| 4 Terrorists the building but fortunately no one was inside it. | 9 This milk smells funny; it must have |
| 5 We were ready to go ahead with the plan but Paul at the last minute. | 10 He isn't usually so polite to me. He must something. |

12 PREPOSITIONS [See Appendix 2 at back of book.]

Choose the correct answer.

- According **to** / **with** this article, people will soon be able to travel into space for holidays.
- They accused him **for** / **of** stealing the money.
- He is accustomed **with** / **to** going jogging in the park every morning.
- I know she's your friend but it's wrong to **take advantage over** / **of** her.
- He had trained really hard, which gave him an **advantage over** / **against** his opponents.
- Let me give you some **advice for** / **on** how to do it.
- Most children are afraid **from** / **of** the dark.
- Have they agreed **on** / **for** a name for the baby?
- A lot of people are allergic **at** / **to** peanuts.
- Clare was very **angry about** / **for** their refusal to help.
- What was his **answer for** / **to** your accusations?
- You must **apologise to** her **for** / **about** your behaviour.
- Tennis doesn't **appeal with** / **to** me. I find it boring.
- Do your parents approve **of** / **for** the way you dress?

13 PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES [See Appendix 3 at back of book.]

Fill in **on**, **at** or **in**.

- **the end**, they decided to turn down his offer.
- Unlike most people, I enjoy going to the cinema **my own**.
- You're here **last**. You were supposed to be here an hour ago.
- It's a great film. The battle scene **particular** is amazing.
- Are you **good terms with** your neighbours?
- Easter is **the beginning of** May this year.
- There were a few problems but, **the whole**, it was a good show.
- I had no idea about the party. Everything had been organised **secret**.
- Our plane leaves in an hour. **the meantime**, we can have a look at the duty-free shop.
- It's dangerous to drive and talk on the phone **the same time**.

14 WORD FORMATION [See Appendix 4 at back of book.]

Fill in the correct form of the word in capitals to complete the sentence.

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 I apologise for what happened. It was a terrible | UNDERSTAND | 6 May I have your attention, please? I have an to make. | ANNOUNCE |
| 2 You need to be to become an architect. | CREATE | 7 Ron was chosen as of the month by the manager. | EMPLOY |
| 3 It is a lovely hotel with decorated rooms. | TASTE | 8 People say that travel the mind. | BROAD |
| 4 This ring was my grandmother's so it's to me. | VALUE | 9 I want to buy a present for my cousin. Any ? | SUGGEST |
| 5 athletes usually make a lot of money. | PROFESSION | 10 The goals you've set aren't, I'm afraid. | REAL |

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