

New Elementary 2
Unit 3 Lesson B Grammar
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The Simple Present Tense vs. The Present Progressive Tense

vs. = versus = against
progressive = continuous

The **simple present tense** shows

- **a routine = what we do every day**
Thomas gets up at 6 o'clock every morning.
Monica goes to school at 7 a.m. every day.
- **a habit = what we usually tend to do**
Joe smokes cigarettes.
They don't drink tea. They usually drink coffee.
- **a fact = what is generally true**
The earth turns around the sun.
The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

The **present progressive** shows

- **an action happening right now**
You are learning English now.
I am teaching you right now.
You aren't sleeping at the moment.

- **an action happening these days**
We are painting our house these days.
They are assembling a robot these days.
assemble = put together

Point:

We can't use the present progressive with the following verbs (We can't add -ing to them):

know, want, love, like, prefer, hate, understand, need

Examples:

Don't Say: I **am loving** you.

Say: I **love** you.

Don't Say: They **are wanting** to go.

Say: They **want** to go.

Don't Say: He **is needing** a car.

Say: He **needs** a car.

Point:

We can sometimes use some verbs such as “have” and “look” in the progressive form, and sometimes we cannot use them in the progressive form depending on the meaning.

Examples:

I have a bicycle.

⇒ have = possess

⇒ We can't use the present progressive.

I am having lunch now.

⇒ have = eat or drink

⇒ We can use the present progressive.

They are having a good time.

⇒ have = experience

⇒ We can use the present progressive.

You look happy.

⇒ look = seem

⇒ We can't use the present progressive.

You are looking at the flower.

⇒ look = observe

⇒ We can use the present progressive.

Source:

[New Elementary 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://NewElementary2(anglophone.ir))