

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

Focus

Present simple and present continuous yes/no questions and short answers

'Wh' follow-up questions

Aim

To learn the differences between the present simple and present continuous tense by asking and answering questions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

This present simple vs. present continuous activity helps to illustrate to elementary students how the present simple and present continuous tense are different and how to ask and answer questions using each tense.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go through the first two items on the worksheet together as a class. Elicit the present simple and present continuous yes/no question from the worksheet and highlight the differences between the two tenses and questions.

Then, go through possible answers and 'Wh' follow-up questions.

Examples:

Do you watch TV in the evening?
Yes, I do. / No, I don't.
What TV show do you like to watch?

Are you studying for a test at the moment?
Yes, I am. /No, I'm not.
What test are you studying for?

Working together, have the students prepare the rest of the present simple and present continuous yes/no questions together with possible 'Wh' follow-up questions for the other items on the worksheet.

Afterwards, go through the questions with the class.

Students then go around the class and ask each other the present simple and present continuous yes/no questions from the worksheet.

When a student finds someone who answers 'Yes, I do' or 'Yes, I am' to a question, the student writes down their name and asks a 'Wh' follow-up question to gain more information, noting down the answer in the last column.

Tell the students that they can only have the same name once (or twice). This is to encourage them to speak to as many different partners as possible.

When everyone has finished, ask students to give feedback to the rest of the class on what they found out by making present simple and present continuous statements.

Find Someone Who...

Find someone who...	Name	More information
1. watches TV in the evening.		
2. is studying for a test at the moment.		
3. goes to school/work by car.		
4. is having dinner at home this evening.		
5. is feeling happy today.		
6. lives near here.		
7. is looking for a part-time job at the moment.		
8. is meeting a friend after class.		
9. studies English at the weekend.		
10. wants to live in another country.		
11. is trying to give up something.		
12. checks their email every day.		
13. is reading an interesting book at the moment.		
14. drinks coffee every morning.		