ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

The Present Continuous Tense or The Present Simple Tense Test A1 A2 Level Exercises

A1 A2 Level Grammar Tests · 16 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/the-present-continuous-tense-or-the-present-simple-tense-test-a1-a2-level-exercises/

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Explanations

1. A: Hi, Mary. _____ you enjoying the party?

B: Yes. It is an amazing party.
✓ **B) Are**
We ask about now, at the party, so we use **are** + **-ing**: **Are you enjoying …?** With **you** we use **are**, not **is**.

2. Mr and Mrs Green _____ from England but they _____ in Turkey.
✓ **C) come / live**
These are facts that are always true, so we use the present simple. With **they** there is no **-s**: **they come**, **they live**.

3. A: How often _____ you eat out?

B: Once a month.
✓ **B) do**
How often asks about habits, so we use the present simple. With **you** the question word is **do**: **How often do you eat out?**

4. Don't _____! Mum _____.
✓ **D) shout / is sleeping**
Don't + the base verb: **Don't shout!** Mum is asleep right now, so we say **is sleeping**.

5. A: What _____ you do on Saturday nights?

B: I _____ with my friends.
✓ **B) do / usually go out**
On Saturday nights means every Saturday, a habit, so we use the present simple: **I usually go out**. Not **am going out**, because that is for now or a plan.

6. Who _____ the guitar over there?
✓ **C) is playing**
Someone is playing the guitar **over there** at this moment, so we use the present continuous: **Who is playing …?**

7. Jason _____ late to school today but he _____ on time for class.
✓ **D) is / is usually**
Jason is late today (only today), but **he is usually on time** (his habit). **Usually** goes after **is**: **is usually**, not **usually is**.

8. I _____ black coffee but right now I _____ coffee with milk.
✓ **A) like / am drinking**
Like is a state verb, so we don't use it with **-ing**: **I like**. **Right now** means at this moment, so we say **I am drinking**.

9. Our English teacher _____ trousers but today she _____ a dress.
✓ **C) often wears / is wearing**
Often shows a habit, so we use the present simple: **often wears**. **Today** is different from usual, so we use the present continuous: **is wearing**.

10. How long _____ to go to the city centre from here?
✓ **B) does it take**
This is a general question, so we use the present simple. With **it** we use **does**: **How long does it take …?**

11. A: What time _____?

B: At 9.30 every morning.
✓ **A) do you leave home**
Every morning shows a habit, so we use the present simple question: **What time do you leave home?** With **you** we use **do**, not **does**.

12. Grandma _____ today. That _____ wonderful.
✓ **C) is coming / sounds**
For a plan today we use the present continuous: **Grandma is coming**. **Sound** is a state verb, so we say **That sounds wonderful**, with **-s** for **that**.

13. I _____ opera is boring. What _____?
✓ **A) think / do you think**
When **think** means 'have an opinion', we use the present simple: **I think …**, **What do you think?**

14. A: What _____ tonight?

B: I _____ with my friends.
✓ **A) are you doing / am going out**
For plans for **tonight** we use the present continuous: **What are you doing tonight? I am going out with my friends.**

15. My parents _____ by plane but I _____ flying.
✓ **B) sometimes travel / hate**
Sometimes shows a habit, so we use the present simple. With **my parents** (they) there is no **-s**: **travel**. **Hate** is a state verb: **I hate**, not **am hating**.

16. Hurry up! We _____ so much time.
✓ **D) don't have**
Have here means 'own or possess', so it is a state verb and we use the present simple. **Hurry up!** tells us we have little time, so the sentence is negative: **We don't have so much time.** Not **are not having**, because we don't use **have** (= possess) with -ing.