

Mingling game: present simple and present continuous by Jill Hadfield

Level: Pre-intermediate–intermediate

Target age: Secondary / Adult

Time needed: 30 minutes

Grammar objective: to practise contrasting the present simple and continuous

Materials: one chart per student (there are ten different charts)

Summary: a whole-class mingling game to practise differentiating between the present simple and continuous

Before the lesson

Cut up the charts. If you have fewer than ten students in your class, you can give some, or all, of your students more than one chart, depending on the numbers.

Procedure

1. Ask students what various members of their families usually do on [whatever day of the week it is currently]. Elicit answers like:

*My sister usually goes to school.
My mum usually works.*

Then, ask students to visualize what that family member is doing right now. Elicit answers like:

*My sister is probably doing her homework.
My mum is going to work on the bus.*

Elicit what tense is used to describe what their family members usually do (present simple) and what tense for is used to describe what they're doing right now (present continuous). If necessary, outline the forms on the board.

2. Give the students their charts. Tell the students that all the people on their worksheets are doing something that they don't usually do on a Saturday afternoon. The students each have to find out:

- what they usually do;
- what they are doing now;
- the reason why they are doing something different.

3. Students should take their chart(s) and a pen and go round the class asking each other questions (you may want to write these on the board):

*What does ... usually do on Saturdays?
What is ... doing now?
Why is ... ing?*

Give a time limit, for example ten minutes.

4. When the time is up, group students in threes or fours and ask them to pool their information to complete the worksheet.
5. Go through the answers as a class, making sure students are using the two tenses correctly.

Extension: Students can take on the role of one of the people on the chart and have a conversation with another student who takes on a different role. They should pretend they are friends who have either bumped into each other or are talking on the phone. They should discuss their change of plans for the day, talking about and elaborating on the information from the chart.

<i>name</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>today</i>	<i>why</i>
<i>Jacob</i>	<i>plays golf</i>	<i>is doing the gardening</i>	<i>the golf club is closed</i>
<i>Sam</i>	<i>visits his mum</i>	<i>is having a party</i>	<i>it's his birthday</i>
<i>Maisie</i>	<i>goes for a walk</i>	<i>is staying at home</i>	<i>it's raining</i>
<i>Will</i>	<i>does the shopping</i>	<i>is driving to the airport</i>	<i>going on holiday</i>
<i>Al</i>	<i>goes running</i>	<i>is cooking</i>	<i>his friends are coming to dinner</i>
<i>Kate</i>	<i>plays tennis</i>	<i>is dancing</i>	<i>at a friend's wedding</i>
<i>Emma</i>	<i>goes out to lunch with her daughter</i>	<i>is having lunch at home</i>	<i>her daughter is away</i>
<i>Tom</i>	<i>goes cycling</i>	<i>is working in the garage</i>	<i>repairing his bike</i>
<i>Beth</i>	<i>goes swimming</i>	<i>is staying in bed</i>	<i>got the flu</i>
<i>Lucy</i>	<i>does aerobics</i>	<i>is watching TV</i>	<i>has broken her leg</i>

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FUN WITH GRAMMAR CARDS



name	usually	today	why
Jacob	plays golf		
Sam		is having a party	
Maisie			
Will			
Al			
Kate			
Emma			her daughter is away
Tom			
Beth			
Lucy			

name	usually	today	why
Jacob			
Sam			
Maisie			
Will	does the shopping		
Al			
Kate			at a friend's wedding
Emma		is having lunch at home	
Tom			
Beth			
Lucy			

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name	usually	today	why
Jacob			
Sam			
Maisie			
Will			
Al			
Kate			
Emma			
Tom			repairing his bike
Beth		is staying in bed	
Lucy	does aerobics		

name	usually	today	why
Jacob			
Sam			
Maisie		is staying at home	
Will			
Al			
Kate	plays tennis		
Emma			
Tom			
Beth			got the flu
Lucy			

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name	usually	today	why
Jacob		is doing the gardening	
Sam	visits his mum		
Maisie			it's raining
Will			
Al			
Kate			
Emma			
Tom			
Beth			
Lucy			

name	usually	today	why
Jacob			the golf club is closed
Sam			
Maisie	goes for a walk		
Will		is driving to the airport	
Al			
Kate			
Emma			
Tom			
Beth			
Lucy			

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FUN WITH GRAMMAR CARDS



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Jacob			
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Maisie			
Will			
Al	goes running		
Kate		is dancing	
Emma			
Tom			
Beth			
Lucy			

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Jacob			
Sam			
Maisie			
Will			going on holiday
Al		is cooking	
Kate			
Emma	goes out to lunch with her daughter		
Tom			
Beth			
Lucy			

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Jacob			
Sam			
Maisie			
Will			
Al			his friends are coming to dinner
Kate			
Emma			
Tom	goes cycling		
Beth			
Lucy		is watching TV	

name	usually	today	why
Jacob			
Sam			
Maisie			
Will			
Al			
Kate			
Emma			
Tom		is working in the garage	
Beth	goes swimming		
Lucy			has broken her leg