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Basics. Present Simple vs. Present Continuous: Advanced Contrast

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Present tense | Verb | Progressive tense | Simple tense

1. Help the spaceship captain update her digital logbook about an annoying crew member. Choose the correct phrase to complete the sentence.

"I love our alien co-pilot Zorg, but he _____ my coffee mug! He _____ perfectly well that humans need caffeine to survive."

Select one.

A) always steals / know
B) is always stealing / is knowing
C) always steal / is knowing
D) is always stealing / knows

2. Help the confused food critic complete his rather harsh restaurant review by selecting the correct verb forms.

This green soup _____ exactly like old gym socks. Look over there! The head chef _____ it right now, and he looks absolutely terrified. I _____ we should pay the bill and escape before the main course arrives.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) is tasting
B) tastes
C) taste

Blank 2
A) is tasting
B) tastes
C) taste

Blank 3
A) think
B) am thinking
C) thinks

3. Help the frustrated college student vent about their terrible roommate by dragging the appropriate verb phrases into the blanks.

The sun _____ in the east, and my roommate is just as predictable. He _____ for his morning run at exactly 6:00 AM. But I absolutely cannot stand that he _____ terribly loud opera in the shower! Right now, he _____ my favorite pop song.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) is always rising
B) always rises
C) always rise

Blank 2
A) is always leaving
B) always leaves
C) always leave

Blank 3
A) always sings
B) is always singing
C) always sing

Blank 4

- **A)** destroys
- **B)** is destroying
- **C)** destroy

4. Help the cooking show producer confront the judge about a terrible dish. Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentence.

"Chef, why _____ the soup again? We all know it _____ like old gym socks!"

Select one.

- **A)** do you taste / is tasting
- **B)** are you tasting / tastes
- **C)** are you tasting / is tasting
- **D)** do you taste / tastes

5. Read the college student's text message complaining about her living situation. Choose the best verb for each gap to capture the drama.

While my dorm is being renovated this month, I _____ with my eccentric cousin. His collection of weird vintage clocks _____ larger every single week! I really _____ to move back to my own quiet room as soon as possible.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** am staying
- **B)** stay
- **C)** stays

Blank 2

- **A)** is growing
- **B)** grows
- **C)** grow

Blank 3

- **A)** want
- **B)** am wanting
- **C)** wants

6. Complete the exchange student's postcard to her parents by dragging the correct verb forms into the gaps.

Greetings from Japan! Normally, our family _____ in a quiet, boring suburb back home. But this month, I _____ right in the noisy heart of Tokyo! My host brother usually _____ engineering at the local college. However, this week he _____ as a giant mascot for a noodle company to earn extra cash.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is living
- **B)** lives
- **C)** live

Blank 2

- **A)** live
- **B)** am living
- **C)** lives

Blank 3

- **A)** is studying
- **B)** studies
- **C)** study

Blank 4

- **A)** works
- **B)** is working
- **C)** work

7. Read the food blogger's draft. Select ALL the sentences that use present tenses correctly to describe her experience.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I am having a wonderful time at this new cafe.
- **B)** The owner has three more restaurants in the city.
- **C)** I have a wonderful time at this new cafe right now.
- **D)** The owner is having three more restaurants in the city.

8. Complete the frustrated email to a landlord about a quirky roommate. Select the grammatically correct option.

"Normally, my roommate _____ his tuba in the basement, but this week he _____ in the living room because the basement flooded."

Select one.

- **A)** is playing / practices
- **B)** plays / practices
- **C)** plays / is practicing
- **D)** play / practice

9. You are helping a teenager write a dramatic text message to a friend about their annoying sibling. Select ALL the sentences that are grammatically correct!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** My brother is always borrowing my clothes without asking!
- **B)** My brother is currently borrowing my car for the weekend.
- **C)** My brother always borrow my clothes without asking!
- **D)** My brother is usually borrowing my car on weekends.

10. Complete the panicked theater director's text message to the producer by selecting the correct verb forms.

Look at the stage! The lead actor _____ all his lines right now. He usually _____ everything perfectly during rehearsals. I _____ I will never direct a live comedy again!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is forgetting
- **B)** forgets
- **C)** forget

Blank 2

- **A)** remembers
- **B)** is remembering
- **C)** remember

Blank 3

- **A)** promise
- **B)** am promising
- **C)** promises

11. Agent 007 needs to get his cover story straight before the mission. Select ALL the grammatically correct sentences he can use to fool the villains!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I usually live in Paris, but I am staying in London for a few weeks.
- **B)** I am working as an art dealer for this specific mission.
- **C)** I am usually living in Paris, but I stay in London for a few weeks.
- **D)** I work as an art dealer for this specific mission.

12. Help the confused food critic complete their restaurant review by dragging the correct verbs into the blanks.

Welcome to "The Neon Spoon" restaurant! Personally, I _____ this glowing blue soup is a terrible idea. Over in the kitchen, the head chef _____ it right now to see if it needs more salt. Honestly, the broth _____ like liquid plastic. My friends and I _____ a very weird dinner tonight!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** am thinking
- **B)** think
- **C)** thinks

Blank 2

- **A)** tastes
- **B)** is tasting
- **C)** taste

Blank 3

- **A)** is tasting
- **B)** tastes
- **C)** taste

Blank 4

- **A)** have
- **B)** are having
- **C)** has