

Verb Tense: Present



at The Academic Resource Center

508-588-9100 x1801

writingcenter@massasoit.mass.edu

<Simple Present> = [Verb + s/es in third person]

Use when stating:

Examples:

Recurring activities	I go to school every day. Katharine often plays tennis after work.
Facts	Sugar dissolves in water. (Scientific fact) Tokyo is the capital city of Japan. (Geographical fact)
Scheduled future situations	The train leaves at 10:45. We still have an hour. My Math exam starts at 9 in the morning.

<Present Continuous> = [am/is/are + gerund (Verb + ing)]

Use when stating:

Examples:

Current actions (happening right now)	I am running on the track right now. We are hiring for the cashier position.
Actions that indicate duration	She is reading a Philosophy book. Sheila is studying hard to be certified as an ESL teacher.
Future activities	My friend is flying to Boston to see me this weekend. Dan is moving to Massachusetts in a few months.

*Adapted from: *Ready for FCE*, Roy Norris (2001)

Verb Tense: Present

<Present Perfect> = [have/has + past participle (Verb + d/ed)]

Use when stating:

Examples:

Recently completed actions	I have finished reading Hemmingway's book. She has just received news of her promotion.
Continued actions from the past to now	Massasoit Community College has been open for 45 years. The quality of the restaurant has never changed since it was opened in 1935.
Experiences	I have been to France. My brother has worked at a retail store before.

<Present Perfect Continuous> = [have/has + been + gerund (Verb + ing)]

Use when stating:

Examples:

The emphasis on the length of actions	I have been taking sugar pills ever since I was diagnosed with low blood sugar. There you are! We have been looking for you for a while.
Temporary situations	My father has been using my mother's car while his car is being fixed. The police have been patrolling around because of the murder case that happened 2 days ago.
Incomplete situation/event	I have been cleaning the house all day. That is why I am so sweaty. Sara has been working on the problem on the website. I hope she will be able to find a solution.
Repetitive situation/event	The neighbor's dog has been barking recently. We cannot sleep at night! Why have we been getting letters from Comcast nowadays? I am pretty sure I paid the bill.