



A Basic English Grammar
Exercises

With Key

J Eastwood



Oxford
English



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The present continuous tense

These people are playing a game. They are miming things. You have to say what they are doing. These phrases will help you: *brush his/her teeth, carry something, climb a ladder, comb his/her hair, eat an apple, play cards, read the newspaper, take a photo, wash his/her hands.*



Example

She's taking a photo.



Activity A

Play the miming game. One student mimes an action, and the others ask *Are you sweeping the floor? Are you writing something?* etc.

Activity B

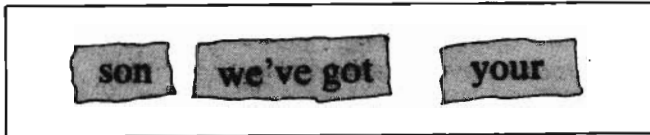
Talk about these photos and say what the people in them are doing.



Word order

Four men have kidnapped the son of a very rich family. The men are going to send a letter to the family, and they have cut these words out of a newspaper. Put the words in the correct order.

Example



We've got your son.

Activity

Cut a sentence out of an English newspaper or magazine. Then cut the sentence into separate words or phrases and ask a partner to put them in the correct order.

If you haven't got an English newspaper, write a sentence on a piece of paper and then cut it up. You can copy the sentence from an English book.

1 us must pay £250,000 you

2 is boy the safe

3 money can go when got the we've he

4 all right he be will

5 in the money £10 notes must be

6 to the bring car park the money

7 this show don't to the police

8 talk to sorry if you you'll be the police

2 (BEG 2.1)

The present tense of **be**

It's the Drama Club tonight, but not everyone has arrived yet. Complete the dialogue using present tense forms of *be*. Some forms are positive (e.g. *is*) and some negative (e.g. *isn't*); some are full forms (e.g. *are*) and some short forms (e.g. *'re*).

Jane ... we all here now?

Mark Where ... Tom? He ... here.

Helen Oh, he ... very well. He ... in bed.

Lynn Oh, dear. Poor Tom. And Sarah ... here.

Sarah Oh, yes, I ...

Jane Oh, there you ... , over in the corner. Sorry, Sarah.

Mark Angela ... late. Or ... she ill, too?

Helen No, she ... ill.

Lynn Peter and Sue ... here.

Jane Yes, they They ... in the kitchen.

Angela Hello, everybody. ... I late?

Jane Yes, you ...

Angela Oh, I ... sorry.

Jane Tell Peter and Sue to come, Mark.

Peter It ... all right. Here we ...

Jane Good. Now we ... ready to start.

Activity

One student thinks of a famous living person or a group of people such as a pop group. Ask questions to find out who the person is, e.g. *Is it one person? Is it a man? Is he European? Are they a sports team? Is she Queen Elizabeth?*

3 (BEG 2.1; 2.2)

The present tense of **be** and **have**

Mr and Mrs Johnson want to sell their house. Say things about the house using a form of *be* or *have*.

Examples

house – 200 years old.

The house is 200 years old.

all rooms – central heating.

All the rooms have central heating.

1 garden – lovely

2 views to the north and east – beautiful

3 house – six bedrooms

4 rooms – large

5 downstairs rooms – carpets

6 sitting room – lovely old fireplace

7 kitchen – plenty of cupboards

8 garage – big enough for three cars

Activity

Write a short description of the house or flat you live in.

The present tense of have got

It's the first week of January. There are sales at the big department stores, and you can buy some things very cheaply. What have these people got?

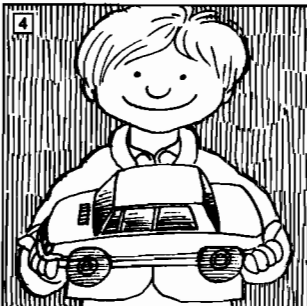
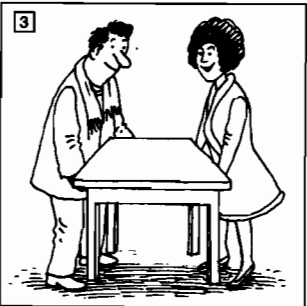
Examples



He's got a shirt.



They've got some chairs.



Activity A

Find some more pictures. Look through a magazine or a textbook and talk to a partner about the things people have got. If you don't know the word in English, ask your teacher.

Activity B

Ask your partner what he/she has got at home. Ask e.g. *Have you got a camera?* *Have you got a computer?* *Have you got a bicycle?* Then tell your partner what you've got.

The present continuous tense

These people are playing a game. They are miming things. You have to say what they are doing. These phrases will help you: *brush his/her teeth, carry something, climb a ladder, comb his/her hair, eat an apple, play cards, read the newspaper, take a photo, wash his/her hands.*



Example

She's taking a photo.



Activity A

Play the miming game. One student mimes an action, and the others ask *Are you sweeping the floor? Are you writing something?* etc.

Activity B

Talk about these photos and say what the people in them are doing.



6 (BEG 2.4)

**The simple present tense
(positive statements)**

Complete this newspaper story about Lord Stonebury. Put in the correct simple present form of these verbs: *go* (× 4), *have* (× 3), *live* (× 2), *get*, *meet*, *own*, *play*, *read*, *spend*, *talk*.

LORD STONEBURY TELLS ALL!

from an interview by our reporter Tim Bennett, and *only* in the Daily Talk

Lord Stonebury is twenty-eight years old. He ... in Belgravia in London's West End. He's very rich, and he ... the company Office Blocks International. Every morning the young Lord ... breakfast in bed and ... the newspapers. He ... up at ten o'clock and usually ... for a walk in Hyde Park. He ... lunch at his club. He sometimes ... the Directors of OBI, and they ... about the company's plans.

In the afternoon Lord Stonebury and his friends sometimes ... golf. Then they ... a few drinks. Or sometimes he and a girl-friend ... for a drive in his sports car.

After dinner Lord Stonebury ... to a night club or a casino with one of his girl-friends. They ... home at about two o'clock.

In the winter the young Lord ... in Monte Carlo. And he ... his summer holidays in the West Indies.

Activity

Write the story of a typical day in *your* life.

7 (BEG 2.4)

**The simple present tense
(positive and negative statements)**

Amanda hasn't got a boy-friend. The Find-a-Friend Club wants to help her. Look at Amanda's answers to the club's questionnaire and write sentences about her.

Examples

*Amanda reads books.
She doesn't watch a lot of television.*

Put a tick in the box.

Do you ...

read books?

watch a lot of television?

play computer games?

like music?

often visit people?

like sport?

go swimming?

like animals?

go for walks?

often go out in the evenings?

Yes	No
✓	
	✓
	✓
✓	
✓	
	✓
	✓
✓	
	✓

Activity

You are writing a letter to the Find-a-Friend Club. Write a paragraph saying what you like and what you do in your spare time.