

19 The present for future events

The present simple and present continuous can be used to talk about future events that are already planned. They are usually used with a future time word or time phrase.

See also:

Present simple **1** Present continuous **4**
Prepositions of time **107**

19.1 THE PRESENT SIMPLE FOR FUTURE EVENTS

The present simple can be used to talk about events that are scheduled to take place in the future.



HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

The train

PRESENT SIMPLE

arrives

FUTURE TIME PHRASE

at 10pm tonight.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Don't forget we **have** an early meeting tomorrow morning.



The next flight to New York **departs** at 6 this evening.



The concert **is** next Wednesday. I hope we're ready by then!



The bank **opens** late tomorrow because it's the weekend.



19.2 THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

The present continuous can be used to talk about pre-arranged future events. Time markers usually show whether the event is in the present or future.

"At the moment" shows the action refers to the present.

Present continuous refers to Dave's present activity.

At the moment Dave is working, but tomorrow he is playing golf.

Time clause "tomorrow" shows the action refers to the future.

Present continuous refers to a future event that is planned.

NOW TOMORROW

HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

Dave

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

is playing golf

FUTURE TIME PHRASE

tomorrow.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



Jack's playing soccer tomorrow.



I'm seeing a movie later.



Sue is studying this evening.



Lisa is playing golf tomorrow.



I'm having dinner with Mike next weekend.



Jay is meeting some friends tomorrow evening.



Tom and Samantha are getting married tomorrow.



I'm running a race for charity this weekend.