

First Semester Grammar Lessons (2nd year) 2025/2026 Dr. Keraghel L.

LESSON 1 — PRESENT SIMPLE

1. Form

- Affirmative: *I work / She works*
- Negative: *I do not work / She does not work*
- Interrogative: *Do you work? / Does she work?*

2. Main Uses

a) Habitual or repeated actions

The present simple is used for actions that happen **regularly, habitually, or as part of a routine.**

- *I get up at six.*
- *She teaches English at university.*

Frequency adverbs commonly used:

- *always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never*

b) General truths and permanent facts

Used for statements that are **always true** or considered **scientifically or universally valid.**

- *Water boils at 100°C.*
- *The sun rises in the east.*

c) Permanent states and stative verbs

Used with **stative verbs**, which normally do **not** take the continuous form.

Common stative verbs (PEG):

- mental states: *know, believe, think*
- emotions: *like, hate, prefer*
- possession: *own, belong, have* (state)
- *I know the answer.*
- *She owns a small apartment.*

d) Timetables, programmes, official schedules

The present simple is used for **fixed future events**, especially in:

- timetables
- official schedules
- public programmes
- *The train leaves at 7:30.*
- *The lecture starts at nine.*

PEG note:

Here the present simple replaces future forms because the event is **fixed and not subject to personal intention**.

3. Contrast with Present Continuous

Present Simple	Present Continuous
Habitual / permanent	Temporary / developing
<i>I live in Setif.</i>	<i>I am living in Setif this year.</i>
General truth	Situation around now

LESSON 2 — PRESENT CONTINUOUS

1. Form

- *am / is / are + verb-ing*

2. Main Uses

a) Actions happening now

Used for actions taking place **at the moment of speaking**.

- *She is reading now.*
- *They are discussing the problem.*

b) Temporary situations

Used for situations that are **not permanent** and are **limited in time**.

- *He is teaching at this university this year.*

PEG contrast:

- Present simple = permanent
- Present continuous = temporary

c) Changing or developing situations

Used to describe **gradual changes**.

- *English is becoming more important globally.*
- *The situation is improving.*

d) Repeated actions with emotional colouring

Often used with *always, constantly* to express **annoyance or criticism**.

- *He is always interrupting.*

PEG note:

This use adds a **subjective attitude**.

3. Restrictions

- Stative verbs are **normally not used** in the continuous.
- *I know* ✓
- *I am knowing* ✗

◆ LESSON 3 — PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

1. Form

- *have / has + past participle*

2. Core Concept (PEG)

The present perfect links the **past with the present**.

The exact time is **not stated** or **not important**.

3. Main Uses

a) Life experience

Used to talk about experiences **at some point before now**.

- *I have visited London.*

Time is **indefinite**.

b) Present result of a past action

Used when the **result is visible or relevant now**.

- *She has broken her arm.* (it is still broken)

c) Unfinished time period

Used with:

- *today, this week, recently, so far*
- *I have written three emails today.*

d) States continuing up to the present

Used with stative verbs and expressions like *for* and *since*.

- *I have known him for ten years.*

4. Restrictions (VERY IMPORTANT IN PEG)

✗ The present perfect **cannot be used** with:

- *yesterday, last year, in 2010, two days ago*

✓ *I met her yesterday.*

✗ *I have met her yesterday.*

LESSON 4 — PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

1. Form

- *have / has been + verb-ing*

2. Core Concept

Focuses on **duration** or **activity**, not the result.

3. Main Uses

a) Duration up to the present

- *I have been studying for three hours.*

b) Temporary repeated activity

- *She has been working late recently.*

c) Visible present effect

- *He looks tired. He has been running.*

4. Contrast with Present Perfect Simple

Present Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous
Result	Duration / activity
<i>I have written the report.</i>	<i>I have been writing the report.</i>

LESSON 5 — PAST SIMPLE

1. Form

- Regular: *worked*
- Irregular: *went, saw, took*

2. Main Uses

a) Completed actions in the past

- *I graduated in 2020.*

b) Definite past time

Time is stated or clearly implied.

- *yesterday, last week, in 2015*

c) Past habits

- *We played outside every day.*

3. Contrast with Present Perfect

Past Simple	Present Perfect
Finished time	Unfinished / present relevance
<i>I saw him yesterday.</i>	<i>I have seen him.</i>

LESSON 6 — PAST CONTINUOUS

1. Form

- *was / were + verb-ing*

2. Main Uses

a) Background action

- *She was reading when I arrived.*

b) Action in progress at a past time

- *At 8 p.m., I was studying.*

c) Parallel actions

- *While he was cooking, she was cleaning.*

3. Contrast with Past Simple

Past Continuous Past Simple

Background	Main event
<i>was reading</i>	<i>arrived</i>

LESSON 7 — PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

1. Form

- *had + past participle*

2. Core Concept

Used to show **earlier past**.

3. Main Uses

a) Action completed before another past action

- *The train had left before I arrived.*

b) Cause of a past situation

- *She was tired because she had worked all day.*

PEG note:
Used **only** when the sequence is not clear without it.

LESSON 8 — PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

1. Form

- *had been + verb-ing*

2. Main Uses

a) Duration before a past moment

- *He had been waiting for an hour.*

b) Cause of a past state

- *She was exhausted; she had been studying.*

3. Contrast with Past Perfect Simple

Past Perfect	Past Perfect Continuous
Result	Duration
<i>He had finished. He had been working.</i>	