

Present Tense Verb Practice

Choose the correct form (or forms) for each sentence and write your answers on a piece of paper.

Example: 1. Joe (is, are) an athlete. 2. He (run, runs, is running) in every competition. 3. Every other Saturday Joe (have, has, is having) a track meet at school. 4. He usually (get, gets, is getting) up at 6 A.M., but even though it's 5:30 A.M. right now he (get, gets, is getting) up for today's race.

Answers: 1. is. 2. runs. 3. has. 4. gets, is getting:

1. Joe is an athlete. 2. He runs in every competition. 3. Every other Saturday Joe has a track meet at school. 4. He usually gets up at 6 A.M., but even though it's 5:30 A.M. right now he is getting up for today's race.

(Explanation: The first sentences talk about something that is true-- Joe is a runner-- and things he does repeatedly. The last sentence talks about what he **usually** does, and then about what he is doing right now-- this time, rather than often or all the time. So the last 'get' is in the present continuous tense, because it's going on now.) For the next answers see the link at the bottom of the page.

5. I (like, likes, am liking) to read.

6. Does Jim (like, likes, is liking) to study?

7. Every weekday morning at 8 A.M. Josh (go, goes, is going) to work.

8. Many mornings when I (wake, wakes, am waking) up, I (hear, hears, am hearing) the birds singing.

9. Sarah (take, takes, is taking) the bus to work often.

10. She (live, lives, is living) too far from her work to walk.

11. Do you (know, knows, are knowing) the time?

12. It's 10:30. Are you (ask, asks, asking) because you don't (have, has, is having) a watch?

13. No. I (have, has, am having) a watch, but I (have, has, am having) trouble seeing right now, after an eye exam.

14. Some high school students don't even (try, tries, are trying) to answer questions in class.

15. For example, Bill (come, comes, is coming) to class every day, but he never (give, gives, is giving) the answer to the teacher's questions.

16. He always (leave, leaves, is leaving) the moment the bell rings.

Answers to Present Tense Verbs

5. **like:** I (like) to read.

6. **like:** Does Jim (like) to study? (Use the base form after the helping verb 'does.')

7. **goes:** Every weekday morning at 8 A.M. Josh (goes) to work.

8. **wake, hear:** Many mornings when I (wake) up, I (hear) the birds singing. (It happens every morning, so I chose 'wake,' but it happens at the moment of awakening, so **it would also be O.K. to say 'when I am waking up.'**)

9. **takes:** Sarah (takes) the bus to work often.

10. **lives:** She (lives) too far from her work to walk.

11. **know:** Do you (know) the time?

12. **asking, have:** It's 10:30. Are you (asking) because you don't (have) a watch?

13. **have, am having:** No. I (have) a watch, but I (am having) trouble seeing right now, after an eye exam.

(The first 'have' is simple present, because I own it all the time, not just right now. **It's uncommon to use 'have' in the present continuous tense**, but we can say "I'm having trouble" or a problem, when it is just a momentary problem-- not all the time. We also talk about "having a party." Otherwise, use 'have'.)

14. **try:** Some high school students don't even (try) to answer questions in class.

15. **Comes, gives:** For example, Bill (comes) to class every day, but he never (gives) the answer to the teacher's questions.

16. **leaves:** He always (leaves) the moment the bell rings.