

PRESENT SIMPLE VS PRESENT CONTINUOUS

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PDF 1 of 3 - LIFE (Always) vs LIVE (Right Now)

Two ideas. LIFE = always, normal. LIVE = right now, at this moment.

LIFE (Present Simple) = Your normal life

I work from 8 to 5. (Every day)

She lives with her family. (Normal)

We don't eat meat. (Habit)

LIVE / NOW (Present Continuous) = Right now

I am working at home today. (Only today, not normal)

She is living with her friend this month. (Temporary)

We are eating now, so we can't talk. (At this moment)

How to make:

I / You / We / They + live / work / eat

He / She + lives / works / eats

I am + working / He is + working / They are + working

A. Look - LIFE or LIVE? Write Simple or Continuous

Sentence	LIFE or LIVE?	Tense?
I usually drink coffee in the morning.	LIFE - always	Present Simple
Shhh, I am drinking coffee right now.	LIVE - right now	Present Continuous
He works in a shop.		
He is working late tonight, so he is tired.		
They are learning English this year.		
They learn English every day after work.		

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B. Two Pictures, One Person

Look at the person. Write 2 sentences. One for LIFE (always) and one for LIVE (now).

Picture 1: The teacher.
LIFE: She teaches English every day.
LIVE: Today she is teaching in a classroom. She is wearing a green shirt.

Your Turn - Picture 1: The teacher.
LIFE: She _____
LIVE: _____



Picture 2: A student.
LIFE: He / She _____ (always)
LIVE: Right now, he / she _____

C. What Are You Doing? What Do You Usually Do?

Ask your partner. Write their answer.
1. What do you usually do on Sunday? -> He / She usually _____
2. What are you doing this Sunday? -> He / She is _____ this Sunday.
3. What do you do after work? -> _____
4. What are you doing after class today? -> _____

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Answer Key

A.

3. He works in a shop = LIFE / Simple,

4. He is working late tonight = LIVE / Continuous (temporary tonight),

5. They are learning English this year = LIVE / Continuous (this year = temporary period),

6. They learn English every day = LIFE / Simple

B.

Check student work:

LIFE must be always, LIVE must be now/today/this week + am/is/are + -ing

C. Common: What do you usually do? = habit. What are you doing? = now.

Students often answer both with simple - correct them.

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