



What's the difference?

Present Simple and Present Continuous

Present Simple	Present Continuous
<p>Things which are always true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water boils at 100 degrees. 	<p>Things which are happening at the moment of speaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water is boiling now, so you can put in the pasta.
<p>Permanent situations (or nearly permanent; true for a few years at least):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie lives in London. 	<p>Temporary situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie is living in Paris for a few months (usually she lives in London). <p>Situations which are slowly changing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm getting better and better at speaking English.
<p>Habits or things we do regularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I drink coffee every morning. 	<p>Temporary or new habits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm drinking too much coffee these days because I'm so busy at work. <p>Annoying habits (usually with 'always'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My flatmate is always leaving the kitchen in a mess!
<p>Future events which are part of a timetable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My plane leaves at eight tonight. <p>To talk about the future after certain words ('when' 'until' 'after' 'before' 'as soon as'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'll call you when I get home. 	<p>Definite future plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm meeting John after class today.
<p>To talk about what happens in books, plays and films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of the book, the detective catches the killer. 	<p>To talk about people in pictures and photos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this photo, my mother is walking beside a lake.

Remember:

We use the present simple with stative verbs. We can't use any continuous tense (including the present continuous tense, of course) with stative verbs.