

[Longman Advanced Learners' Grammar](#)
[Grammar: Present tenses](#)

Exercise 1. Circle the correct verb form in *italics* for each sentence.

1. The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao *houses* / *is housing* Spain's largest collection of modern art.
2. We *are trying out* / *try out* a new paper supplier at the moment. The old one was too expensive.
3. The children *don't eat* / *aren't eating* sweets and chocolate before they go to bed at night. It's bad for their teeth.
- 4 These animals *are displaying* / *display* a great deal of aggression if disturbed.
- 5 We *currently show* / *are currently showing* the film 'Star Wars' at all Odeon cinemas in the region.
6. Quick! Get rid of all the mess! Here *are coming* / *come* Mum and Dad!
7. The weather forecast says there'll be wind from the north-west tonight. That always *brings* / *is brining* snow with it at this time of year.
8. The rubbish collectors *are coming* / *come* on Fridays in this area. They *aren't taking* / *don't take* rubbish not left in plastic bags.
9. You always complain / are always complaining and it really gets on my nerves! Why can't you just accept things and relax?
10. Swimming *is providing* / *provides* exercise for more muscle groups than any other physical activity.

Exercise 2. The words in *italics* are related to one of the sentences (they could come after the sentence or describe it). Circle the correct sentence **a** or **b**.

1. *This is a characteristic of the salmon.*

- a_ We're weighing the salmon to put a price on it.
 b_ This salmon weighs more than six kilos.

2. *He isn't usually difficult.*

- a_ Steven's a difficult child.
 b_ Steven's being difficult.

3. *I'm offering this invitation to you now.*

- a_ I invite everyone present to the opening of the new superstore.
 b_ I'm inviting everyone to the opening of the new superstore.

4. *There are performances every evening.*

- a_ The dance group appears to have arrived at the theatre.
 b_ The dance group is appearing at the theatre.

5. *I need to check the quantity of cinnamon.*

- _a_ Mmm. I taste cinnamon in this. Lovely.
b I'm tasting it to see if there's enough cinnamon in it.

6. *This is my opinion.*

- _a_ I'm thinking of selling my house next year.
b I think house prices will rise again next year.

7. *My sister's pregnant.*

- _a_ My sister's having a baby.
b My sister has a baby.

8. *The smell has just come to my attention.*

- _a_ I'm smelling the lavender. It's a very strong variety.
b I smell lavender. Is there a bush in the garden?

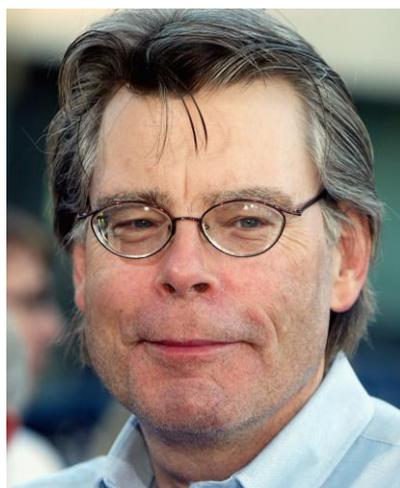
9. *The company takes full responsibility.*

- _a_ We guarantee that your children will be supervised by experienced instructors.
b My husband and I are guaranteeing the loan for MRS Knight.

10. *Is this a permanent characteristic of mine?*

- _a_ I'm sorry, I don't understand. Am I really so stupid?
b Is this an inadequate explanation or am I being stupid?

Exercise 3. Complete this newspaper report. Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form, present simple or present continuous.



It's summer. A man is out for a quiet walk. He's walking along a country road and he (1) _____ (mind) his own business when he (2) _____ (be knocked down) and seriously injured by a minivan. The man, a writer of thrillers and horror fiction, (3) _____ (survive) but he (4) _____ (become) obsessed with the vehicle that maimed him. He doesn't bear a grudge against the driver. Instead, he (5) _____ (buy) the minivan and (6) _____ (hide) it.

This sounds like the plot of a Stephen King thriller, but it is in fact the latest chapter in the writer's real life. King has bought the van and he (7) _____ (intend) to take a sledgehammer to it. At present King (8) _____ (recover) from his injuries at home, where he (9) _____ (suffer from) a broken hip, a fractured leg and a collapsed lung. The story is uncannily like the plot of his novel *Thinner* (written several years previously), in which the victim's family (10) _____ (put) a curse on the driver. King, however, (11) _____ (demand) only the withdrawal of the driver's licence. As for the minivan, we (12) _____ (not know) if King will actually carry out his revenge or if he is simply hatching the plot for a new novel!

Answers

Exercise 1

- 1 houses
- 2 are trying out
- 3 don't eat
- 4 display
- 5 are currently showing
- 6 come
- 7 brings
- 8 come, don't take
- 9 are always complaining
- 10 provides

Exercise 2

- 1 b
- 2 b
- 3 a
- 4 b
- 5 b
- 6 b
- 7 a
- 8 b
- 9 a
- 10 a

Exercise 3

- 1 is minding
- 2 is knocked down
- 3 survives
- 4 becomes
- 5 buys
- 6 hides
- 7 intends
- 8 is recovering
- 9 is suffering from
- 10 puts
- 11 demands
- 12 do not know