

Unit 39: VERBS & PRESENT TIME

Which one do you use?

	SIMPLE?	CONTINUOUS?
Present?	He works	He is working
Present perfect?	He has worked	He has been working

1 *Simple formation*

or

Continuous Formation

a Describing a state

I **think** you are right.
(my opinion)

She **has** two children.

Do you **like** pasta?

He **comes** from London.
(It's his home town.)

Describing an activity

I'**m thinking** about it, but I haven't decided yet.

She **is having** a bath.

Are you **enjoying** the pasta?

He's **coming** from London.
(He's traveling now.)

b Always true ('timeless')

The sun **rises** in the East.

I **have** always **had** trouble with my teeth.

This heater **doesn't work**.
Let's throw it away.

True for a period of time

Look! The sun **is rising**.

I'**ve been having** trouble with my teeth lately.

This heater **isn't working**.
But we can try to repair it.

c Point of time — the action finishes when you finish speaking

We all **wish** you good luck.
I **beg** your pardon.

We cannot use a continuous formation for this meaning.

2 *Perfect formation*

or

Non-perfect

We are interested in when something started.

I'**ve been staying** here for three days.
(I arrived three days ago.)

She **has** always **liked** music.

We are not interested in when something started.

I'**m staying** here for three days.
(A total of three days; I'm not saying when I arrived.)

She **likes** music.

(She has liked it from the start.)

Have you lived here long?

(I know you live here. I want to know when you started.)

(I'm not saying anything about the past.)

Do you live here?

(I want to know if you live here or not.)