TENSES

Ing. Bc. Eva Sapáková

PRESENT SIMPLE

person + verb(s)

I live in London.

She lives in London.

Do / Does + person + verb

Do you live in London?

Does she live in London?

We use the Present Simple:
For permanent situations
I live in a flat.
For general truths
Water boils at 100 °C.
For repeated actions or habits.
I use my mobile phone every day.
To tell stories or summarise the plot of a film or book
Our heroine goes off to search for the treasure.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS person + am / is / are +

verb + -ing

I am staying in London now.

She is staying in London now. Are you staying in London now? Is she staying in London now?

We use the Present Continuous:

For temporary situations existing for a period at the present time

She is working very hard nowadays.

For situations which are changing during the present time

The weather is getting hotter and hotter.

For actions, or repeated actions or habits, occurring at moment of speaking

You are eating too fast.

To express annoying habits with words like always

You are always borrowing money!

PAST SIMPLE person + regular verb / irregular verb

I lived in London last year.

She lived in London last year.

Did + person + verb

Did you live in London last year?

Did she live in London last year?

We use the Past Simple:
For the past habits or states
I passed my exam yesterday.
With periods of time that have
finished
He did a lot in his short life. (= he is dead)

For finished actions with time words like a year ago, last Monday, last week, yesterday

PAST CONTINUOUS person + was / were + verb + -ing

I was / were living in London for two years. She was living in London for two years. Were you living in London for two years? Was she living in London for two years?

We use the Past Continuous:

To talk about something which was in progress during a period of time in the past

I was listening to the news on television last night.

For two things happening at the same time I was sleeping when my friend called.

For repeated events, with a words like always or continually, especially if the speaker is criticizing the activity

Your mother is always doing your homework.

For unfulfilled plans, with verbs like hope, plan

I was hoping to find a new jacket.