

Textbook: Raymond, Murphy. *English Grammar in Use* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Present Tense

(Simple & Continuous)



We need to distinguish **two** basic **types** of present:

1) **Timeless**: expressed with **simple present** form:

- I (always) **write** with a special pen when I sign my name.

As well as expressing habitual action. The **timeless present** is used for **universal** statements, such as:

- The sun **sets** in the middle of the galaxy.
- Spiders **have** eight legs.



2) **Limited**: expressed with **the present continuous**/progressive:

- He **lives** in London but at the present he **is living** in Boston.

Notes:

* Continuous = Progressive

* The verbs **keep (on)** & **go on** have a **similar function** to the normal **progressive** auxiliary (be).



1- John **keeps asking** intelligent questions.

2- John **goes on asking** intelligent questions.