

Christmas Present Simple Present Continuous Mimes

Choose one of the actions below and mime it for your partner. Can they say the sentence of what you are doing?

You are cracking nuts

You are carving a turkey

You are eating chocolates

You are decorating a Xmas tree

You are opening a present

You are ripping the wrapping paper off a present

You are writing Xmas cards

You are praying

You are putting a paper hat on your head

You are singing

You are playing a musical instrument

It is snowing

You are drinking champagne

You are cutting a cake

You are pouring gravy on your dinner

You are putting the dinner in the oven

You are lighting a firework

You are working

You are travelling by train

You are dressing up as Santa

You are kissing people

You are putting presents into a stocking (= a sock)

You are putting presents into a shoe

You are eating fish

You are visiting people's houses

You are shopping

You are cleaning the house

You are watching TV

Continue the same game, but with the person guessing the sentence not looking at the list above

Continue, but with other Xmas actions

Choose one of the things above and give your partner clues about which one you are thinking about by telling them how often you and other people do this thing, e.g. "I never do this", "My father very rarely does this", "In American films, the father always does this late at night on Xmas Eve" ("You are dressing up as Santa")

Continue, but with other things you typically do at Xmas.

Why do we use the Present Continuous ("You are kissing people" = be + ing) for the mimes, but the Present Simple ("He dresses up as Santa" = single verb, with 's' after he/she/it) when you say how often you do things?

Which tense is used with habits and repeated actions? Which tense is used with temporary actions around now?