

Present Simple and Progressive- Trends and Meetings Practice

Work in groups of two to four students. Pretend that you all work for the same company. Choose three topics from the list below, then hold a meeting to find solutions to all those issues. Start from greetings and small talk at the beginning of the meeting and continue until you say goodbye at the end.

Topics to talk about in the meeting

- A typical staff member still does over 25 hours' overtime every week even though they are told not to.
- According to today's news, the Chinese stockmarket is crashing.
- Only older consumers usually buy our products.
- As we speak, our stock price is slipping behind the rest of the market.
- At this very moment many employees are thinking about quitting.
- Brand recognition is only creeping up at the present time, despite a lot of spending on marketing.
- Commercial rents grow by at least ten percent every single year.
- Costs are currently escalating.
- Costs of supplies climb every time that the exchange rate drops.
- Demand for luxury products is dropping due to the current recession.
- Demand for our products almost always peaks when the economy is doing badly. The current economic outlook is good.
- Hacking attacks are shooting up at the moment.
- In the present market, wages are soaring even though economic growth isn't so high.
- Many employees leave in March every year.
- Our brand image is getting worse these days due to some recent scandals.
- Our company's share price is presently declining.
- Our competitors are now becoming bigger and bigger through M&A.
- Our competitors launch new products twice as often as we do every year.
- Our main competitor is currently developing something similar to our bestselling product.
- Our market share is shrinking at this time.

- Raw material prices are rising at the present time.
- Sales of our most successful product are now plateauing.
- Sales of our new products always fall back within two months of their launch.
- Sales plummet every January after the Xmas boom.
- Staff generally complain when they are asked to move to regional branches.
- Staff often complain about bad work/ life balance.
- Staff turnover is increasing in the current employment climate.
- The cost of systems maintenance is rocketing in the present situation.
- The economy isn't improving at the moment.
- The population in our main market is falling at present.
- The temperature in the office goes up too much every summer.
- Unlike in other companies, our workforce hardly ever socialise with each other.

Share some of your solutions with the class. Do they agree that those ideas will work?

Ask about anything above which you don't understand.

Grammar presentation

Without looking above for now, try to put all the sentences below into the correct present tense. Usually only one tense is possible.

- A typical staff member still _____ (do) over 25 hours' overtime every week even though they are told not to.
- According to today's news, the Chinese stockmarket _____ (crash).
- Only older consumers usually _____ (buy) our products.
- As we speak, our stock price _____ (slip) behind the rest of the market.
- At this very moment many employees _____ (think) about quitting.
- Brand recognition _____ (only creep up) at the present time, despite a lot of spending on marketing.
- Commercial rents _____ (grow) by at least ten percent every single year.
- Costs _____ (currently escalate).
- Costs of supplies _____ (climb) every time that the exchange rate drops.
- Demand for luxury products _____ (drop) due to the current recession.
- Demand for our products almost always _____ (peak) when the economy is doing badly. The current economic outlook is good.
- Hacking attacks _____ (shoot up) at the moment.
- In the present market, wages _____ (soar) even though economic growth isn't so high.
- Many employees _____ (leave) in March every year.
- Our brand image _____ (get worse) these days due to some recent scandals.
- Our company's share price _____ (presently decline).
- Our competitors _____ (now become) bigger and bigger through M&A.
- Our competitors _____ (launch) new products twice as often as we do every year.
- Our main competitor _____ (currently develop) something similar to our bestselling product.
- Our market share _____ (shrink) at this time.
- Raw material prices _____ (rise) at the present time.
- Sales of our most successful product _____ (now plateau).
- Sales of our new products always _____ (fall back) within two months of their launch.
- Sales _____ (plummet) every January after the Xmas boom.
- Staff generally _____ (complain) when they are asked to move to regional branches.
- Staff often _____ (complain) about bad work/ life balance.

- Staff turnover _____ (increase) in the current employment climate.
- The cost of systems maintenance _____ (rocket) in the present situation.
- The economy _____ (not improve) at the moment.
- The population in our main market _____ (fall) at present.
- The temperature in the office _____ (go up) too much every summer.
- Unlike in other companies, our workforce hardly ever _____ (socialise) with each other.

Check back with the previous page.

What are the names of the two forms above? What is the difference in meaning of the two tenses?

Without looking above for now, brainstorm words, especially time expressions, which usually go with the two tenses below:

Words which often go with Present Simple	Words which often go with Present Progressive

Without looking above for now, put the words below into one of the spaces above.

almost always	always	as we speak	at present
at the moment	at the present time	at this time	at this very moment
currently	every...	generally	hardly ever
in the present...	now	often	presently
the current...	today	usually	

Look back at the first page to check your answers and use that to help you think of more possible words to go in the table.

Put the words below into the table above

almost never
in general
just now
mainly
most of the time
mostly
never
occasionally
once a...
once every two...s
rarely...
right now
seldom
sometimes
this...
three times a...
twice a...
very often

Trends language

Without looking above for now, brainstorm phrases which have the meanings given into the columns below.

Up	Down	Up and down	Flat/ Becoming flat

Without looking above for now, put the words below the fold into the right places above.

become bigger and bigger	climb	crash	creep up
drop	escalate	fall	fall back
go up	grow	increase	peak
plateau	plummet	rise	rocket
shoot up	shrink	slip behind	soar

Look at the first page to check your answers, remembering that all the phrases are bad things to help. Then try to think of more suitable phrases, e.g. the opposites of the phrases above.

Add these phrases to the right places in the table above:

accelerate
be stable
be unstable
boom
bottom out
bounce back
collapse
decline
decrease
dip/ dipped
dive
double
expand
experience some turbulence
explode
flatten out
fluctuate
halve
level off
not vary
pick up
quadruple
rebound
recover
regain lost ground
remain constant
remain steady
sink/ sank/ sunk
slump
triple