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.

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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words which often go with Present Simple</th>
<th>Words which often go with Present Progressive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>almost always</th>
<th>always</th>
<th>as we speak</th>
<th>at present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at the moment</td>
<td>at the present time</td>
<td>at this time</td>
<td>at this very moment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>currently</td>
<td>every…</td>
<td>generally</td>
<td>hardly ever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the present…</td>
<td>now</td>
<td>often</td>
<td>presently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the current…</td>
<td>today</td>
<td>usually</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Up</th>
<th>Down</th>
<th>Up and down</th>
<th>Flat/ Becoming flat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>become bigger and bigger</td>
<td>climb</td>
<td>crash</td>
<td>creep up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drop</td>
<td>escalate</td>
<td>fall</td>
<td>fall back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go up</td>
<td>grow</td>
<td>increase</td>
<td>peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plateau</td>
<td>plummet</td>
<td>rise</td>
<td>rocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shoot up</td>
<td>shrink</td>
<td>slip behind</td>
<td>soar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.

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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