

Present simple and present continuous; Articles

1 Complete the sentences with the present simple or the present continuous form of the verbs given.

- 'Someone (knock) at the door.' 'Oh, I know who it is. It's Peter.'
- Laura and Tom (have) a very hard time at work at the moment.
- Physical exercise (help) teenagers with concentration in school.
- 'What's the matter?' 'The children (argue) about who is a better footballer.'
- I (think) the expert's advice on retirement is very helpful.
- He (see) his parents every week.
- Dad (not realise) that I am not a little child any more.
- Julian always (switch off) the music when he studies?

2 Choose the best answer (a, b or c) to complete the sentences.

- My aunt speaks too fast. I her.
 - don't understand
 - doesn't understand
 - am not understanding
- I it's important for teenagers to have a private space.
 - am understanding
 - understand
 - understands
- Do you usually to music at a reasonable volume?
 - listening
 - listen
 - are listening
- I feel angry when people senior citizens with respect.
 - are not treating
 - not treat
 - don't treat
- Do you a positive contribution to your family life?
 - make
 - making
 - makes
- My niece with her friends right now – she's at home alone.
 - not plays
 - doesn't play
 - isn't playing

3 Find and correct the mistakes. Two of the sentences are correct.

- 'Hello, where are you?' 'Sorry, I can't talk now. I'm going into the office. Bye.'
- 'Where are you coming from?' 'I come from Italy. I was born in Venice.'
- His Spanish is not perfect, but he improves.
- We don't discuss a lot of things at dinnertime – we watch TV.
- My nephew is never accepting my advice.

4 Circle the correct alternative.

- About 30% of my classmates come from a/the country outside of Europe.
- My cousin and I are almost the/0 same age.
- I always feel very nervous before a class presentation – I don't like speaking in the/0 public.
- My brother is at university and my sister works as 0/a nurse in a hospital.
- We have class discussions in English all the time, but I don't always have a/the confidence to speak.

5 Circle the correct alternative.

Grandparents can be very important in the life of (a) a/the teenager. They have more experience and more time than parents and can help teens make (b) a/the right choices. Teens often (c) think/are thinking their parents don't understand them and that their grandparents understand them better. A study called 'My second mum and dad' says that there are currently 14 million grandparents in the UK, that the number (d) increases/is increasing and that they (e) live/are living longer now. The study also says that many grandparents help teenagers with (f) a/0 school work and go to school events when their parents are busy. More than 25% of teenagers say they talk to their grandparents about problems they (g) don't discuss/aren't discussing with their parents. Experts say that this generation of grandparents has (h) a/0 better relationship with today's teenagers because many grandparents are (i) the/0 younger now. One grandmother says, 'We are probably the only generation that (j) likes/is liking some of the same music our grandchildren like.'