

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE OR THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE?

(I am doing or I do?)

Look at these sentences :

1. My roommate **fasts** in Ramadan, but he **is not fasting** today.
2. We **pray** five times a day, but we **are not praying** now.
3. The sun usually **shines** in the summer, but it **is not shining** at the moment.

Note that the Simple Present verb forms "fasts," "pray," and "shines" denote a act, a habit, or an action that happens from time to time, whereas the Present Continuous verb forms "is fasting," "are praying," and "is shining" denote an action that is taking place at the time of speaking.

Exercise 5

Choose the correct form of the verb in parentheses, using either the Simple Present or the Present Continuous Tense:

1. Owing to financial difficulties, many college students (seek) a part-time job.
2. The students over there (take) the make-up exam.
3. What the word "Monotheism" (mean)?
4. I suppose he (work) on his M.A. thesis these days.
5. This is Shawwal 1st, the first day of the Lesser Bairam. Nobody (fast) today.