

Present Progressive in English vs Italian: Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Future Plans and Temporary Situations

Translate the following English sentences into Italian, paying attention to the correct use of present tenses:

1. "I'm meeting my boss tomorrow at 10 AM."
2. "She's living in Milan for six months while studying."
3. "We're flying to Rome next weekend."
4. "The conference is starting on Monday morning."
5. "I'm working at a restaurant this summer."
6. "They're staying at a hotel near the station."
7. "The train is leaving at 3:30 PM."
8. "He's teaching English temporarily while looking for another job."
9. "I'm renting an apartment downtown for now."
10. "The shop is closing early today."

Exercise 2: Ongoing Actions and State Verbs

Translate these sentences, considering the differences in progressive usage:

1. "What are you thinking about right now?"
2. "I'm understanding this grammar rule better each day."
3. "She's always complaining about the weather."
4. "You're being very kind today."
5. "I'm loving this new restaurant."
6. "The weather is getting warmer."
7. "What are you doing this evening?"
8. "I'm learning Italian at the university."
9. "He's believing in himself more and more."
10. "They're knowing the city better now."

Answer Key

Exercise 1 Solutions:

1. **"I'm meeting my boss tomorrow at 10 AM."**
 - **Italian:** "Incontro il mio capo domani alle 10."
 - **Explanation:** Italian uses simple present for future scheduled events
2. **"She's living in Milan for six months while studying."**
 - **Italian:** "Vive/Sta vivendo a Milano per sei mesi mentre studia."
 - **Explanation:** Both forms acceptable; "sta vivendo" emphasizes temporariness more explicitly
3. **"We're flying to Rome next weekend."**
 - **Italian:** "Andiamo a Roma il prossimo weekend." / "Voliamo a Roma..."
 - **Explanation:** Simple present for planned future travel
4. **"The conference is starting on Monday morning."**
 - **Italian:** "La conferenza inizia lunedì mattina."
 - **Explanation:** Simple present for scheduled events
5. **"I'm working at a restaurant this summer."**
 - **Italian:** "Lavoro in un ristorante quest'estate." / "Sto lavorando..."
 - **Explanation:** Simple present preferred; progressive possible for emphasis on temporariness
6. **"They're staying at a hotel near the station."**
 - **Italian:** "Stanno in un hotel vicino alla stazione."
 - **Explanation:** "Stare" (to stay) uses simple present in Italian
7. **"The train is leaving at 3:30 PM."**
 - **Italian:** "Il treno parte alle 15:30."
 - **Explanation:** Scheduled departures use simple present
8. **"He's teaching English temporarily while looking for another job."**
 - **Italian:** "Insegna inglese temporaneamente mentre cerca un altro lavoro."
 - **Explanation:** Adverb "temporaneamente" clarifies temporary nature
9. **"I'm renting an apartment downtown for now."**
 - **Italian:** "Affitto un appartamento in centro per ora."
 - **Explanation:** "Per ora" indicates temporary situation
10. **"The shop is closing early today."**
 - **Italian:** "Il negozio chiude presto oggi."
 - **Explanation:** Simple present for today's schedule

Exercise 2 Solutions:

1. **"What are you thinking about right now?"**
 - **Italian:** "A cosa pensi (in questo momento)?" / "A cosa stai pensando?"
 - **Explanation:** Simple present more common; progressive possible but less frequent
2. **"I'm understanding this grammar rule better each day."**
 - **Italian:** "Sto capendo questa regola grammaticale sempre meglio ogni giorno."
 - **Explanation:** Italian allows progressive with cognitive verbs when emphasizing gradual process
3. **"She's always complaining about the weather."**
 - **Italian:** "Si lamenta sempre del tempo."
 - **Explanation:** Simple present for habitual actions with "sempre"
4. **"You're being very kind today."**
 - **Italian:** "Sei molto gentile oggi."
 - **Explanation:** "Oggi" indicates temporary behavior; not allowed for progressive (*stai essendo doesn't exist!)
5. **"I'm loving this new restaurant."**
 - **Italian:** "Mi piace molto questo nuovo ristorante."
 - **Explanation:** "Piacere" doesn't use progressive; expresses current preference
6. **"The weather is getting warmer."**
 - **Italian:** "Il tempo diventa più caldo." / "Il tempo sta diventando più caldo."
 - **Explanation:** Both forms possible; simple present more common for gradual changes
7. **"What are you doing this evening?"**
 - **Italian:** "Che fai stasera?" / "Cosa fai stasera?"
 - **Explanation:** Simple present more natural for evening plans
8. **"I'm learning Italian at the university."**
 - **Italian:** "Studio italiano all'università." / "Sto studiando italiano..."
 - **Explanation:** Both are possible
9. **"He's believing in himself more and more."**
 - **Italian:** "Crede sempre di più in se stesso." / "Sta credendo sempre di più..."
 - **Explanation:** Both possible; progressive emphasizes gradual increase
10. **"They're knowing the city better now."**
 - **Italian:** "Ora conoscono meglio la città."
 - **Explanation:** "Conoscere" rarely uses progressive; simple present with "ora"