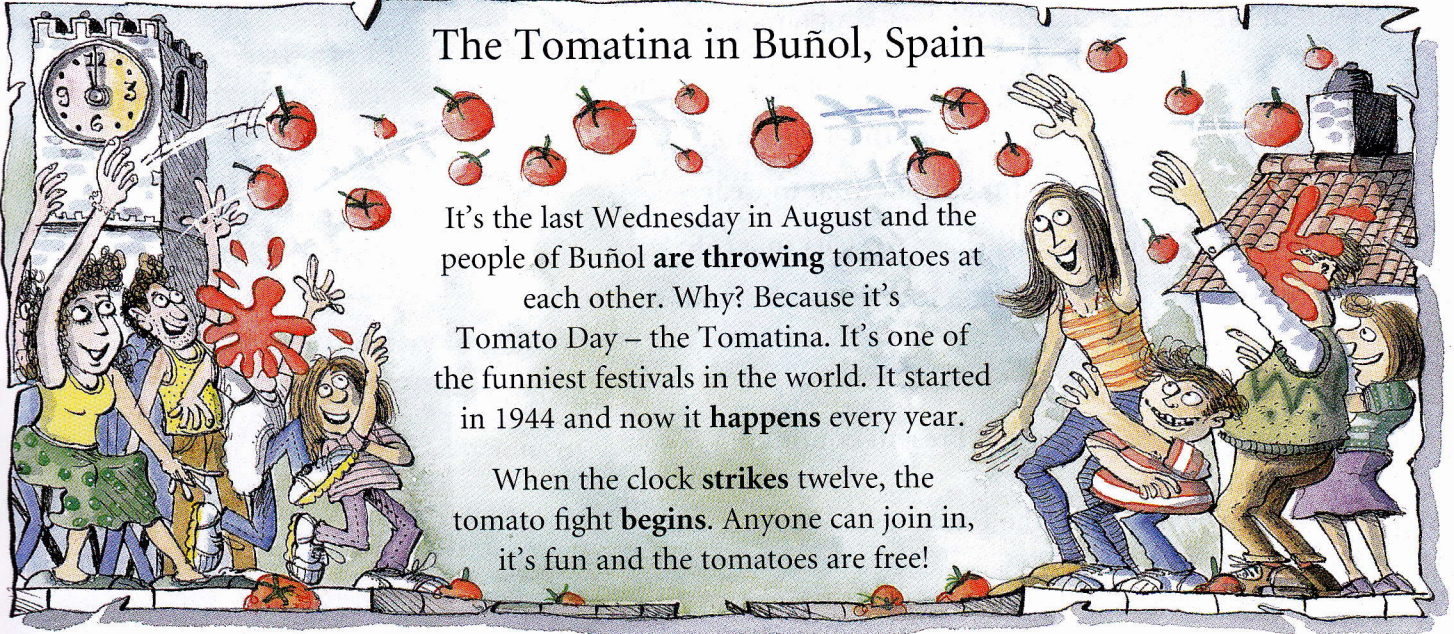




Present simple and continuous



The Tomatina in Buñol, Spain

It's the last Wednesday in August and the people of Buñol **are throwing** tomatoes at each other. Why? Because it's Tomato Day – the Tomatina. It's one of the funniest festivals in the world. It started in 1944 and now it **happens** every year.

When the clock **strikes** twelve, the tomato fight **begins**. Anyone can join in, it's fun and the tomatoes are free!

1 Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

- What are the people in the picture doing?
Cooking tomatoes Throwing tomatoes
- How often does the Tomatina happen?
Once a year Every day



REMEMBER! ⚠

The present simple is to talk about things that you do *again and again*.

The Tomatina **happens** every year.
The clock **strikes** twelve twice a day.

Use the present simple, not the present continuous, with these verbs:

like, love, hate, think, understand, believe, know, want.

They **like** throwing tomatoes.
NOT They're liking throwing tomatoes.
I **don't believe** you. NOT I'm not believing you.

2 Use the verbs below in the present simple to complete the sentences.

help enjoy finish take place ✓ start

► The Tomatina **takes place**..... on the last Wednesday in August.

- 1 It at twelve o'clock.
- 2 It an hour later at one o'clock.
- 3 Everybody the tomato fight.
- 4 Everybody to clean up afterwards.

REMEMBER! 2

The present continuous is to talk about things that are happening *now*.

*They're **throwing** tomatoes at each other.*
*Lots of people **are watching** the Tomatina.*

3 Finish the sentences. Use the present continuous.

- People **are picking**..... (pick) tons of tomatoes for the fight.
- 1 They (talk) about the Tomatina.
 - 2 They (think) about what to wear.
 - 3 The mayor of Buñol (sit) in a café.
 - 4 Lots of children (wait) in the town square.

REMEMBER! 3

Present simple = *again and again*. Present continuous = *now*.

*People **pick** the tomatoes.*
= Every year people pick the tomatoes.
*People **are picking** the tomatoes.*
= People are picking the tomatoes now.

Be careful!

*People **love** the Tomatina.* NOT ~~People are loving the Tomatina.~~

4 Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous or present simple. Use the verbs below.

write think ✓ book come like

- Everybody in Buñol **thinks**..... the Tomatina is great fun.
- 1 Every year, tourists to Buñol to watch the Tomatina.
 - 2 This week thousand of tourists rooms in hotels in Buñol.
 - 3 Today the mayor his speech.
 - 4 Nobody clearing up after the tomato fight!





PRACTICE

5

a Look at the list of things that happen every year on Tomatina Day. Read the passage and fill in the gaps. Use the present simple. There's a list of verbs to help you. They're in the correct order.

- go ✓ pick load drive cover
- decorate play carry strike
- explode start drop last

Before Wednesday the people of Buñol

► go to the tomato fields.

They (1) fifty tons of tomatoes and they (2) the tomatoes onto lorries.

On the day of the Tomatina farmers

(3) the lorries to Buñol.

In the town a lot of preparations are made.

People (4) their windows and doors with plastic to stop the tomato juice getting in. Café owners (5) their cafés with flags and pictures and a band (6) music all morning. The tomato lorries start to arrive.

Next, one of the organisers

(7) a case full of gunpowder to the town hall. When the clock (8) twelve, the gunpowder (9) and the Tomatina (10) The lorries (11) tomatoes on the ground and the people start the enormous tomato fight. It (12) for exactly one hour.

b Write six questions about the Tomatina to ask a friend.

► How many tomatoes do the people pick?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

c Now work with a partner. Take turns to ask and answer the questions you wrote in 5b.

- Partner A *How many tomatoes do the people pick?*
- Partner B *They pick fifty tons of tomatoes.*
- Partner B *What do they do with the tomatoes?*
- Partner A *They load them onto lorries.*

- 6 It's the day of the Tomatina. Imagine you're a journalist. You're reporting what's happening. Write what you can see. Use the present continuous.

COUNTDOWN TO TWELVE O'CLOCK

Six o'clock to nine o'clock

- ▶ People / pick / tomatoes / in the fields
People are picking tomatoes in the fields.

- 1 Farmers / drive / big lorries / from the tomato fields
.....

- 2 The lorries / carry / tomatoes into Buñol
.....

- 3 People / decorate / the town square
.....

Nine o'clock to eleven o'clock

- 4 Some ladies / cover / the windows of their houses
.....

- 5 Children / put / cardboard / in front of their doors
.....

- 6 Cafés / sell / coffee and ice cream
.....

- 7 A band / play / music in the square
.....

Eleven o'clock to twelve o'clock

- 8 The first lorry / drop / tomatoes in the main street
.....

- 9 The crowd / shout and laugh
.....

- 10 The clock / strike / twelve o'clock
.....





7 Choose the present simple or continuous. Think carefully!

Juan usually ► stays (stay) in his house during the Tomatina but today he (1) (be) at a friend's house. Usually they (2) (play) computer games but they (3) (not / do) that today. Today they (4) (join) in the tomato fight. Juan's friend, David, usually wears smart trousers and shirts but today he (5) (wear) very old jeans and a T-shirt. He (6) (know) he's going to be covered in tomato juice!

There are a lot of tourists in Buñol this year so the streets (7) (be) very crowded. Everybody (8) (throw) tomatoes and laughing. Juan usually hates tomatoes but today he (9) (want) as many tomatoes as he can find. It's a very sunny day and everybody (10) (enjoy) the Tomatina.