

## UNIT 4

# The Lake



Read about this disappearing lake in central Africa, then answer the questions putting either **T** for true, **F** for false or **NW** for "not written in the text".

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Rikki has a very English name but his part of central Africa is suffering from a problem that few in England would have to put up with: a lack of rain so acute that Rikki's livelihood is literally evaporating away.

"I would love to have the English weather here in Chad. Then the lake would not go away."

Rikki lives in the town of Bol near the shores of Lake Chad, a lake that has shrunk by 90% in the last 40 years. A lack of rain is only one of many culprits being blamed for this emerging disaster.

"I am a fisherman. For me, it is like watching my life draining away every day. The fishing is getting worse and worse in the lake. They are getting smaller and I think the fish breeding has been disrupted by the reduction in area and in depth." Lake Chad is only a metre deep in most places.

Rikki struggles now to provide enough food and income for his wife Belle and their four children. Belle has had to take up pottery in her spare time in order to try and boost the amount of money coming into the household every month.

"Our rent doesn't go down with the level of the lake unfortunately," Mbaza complains. "We still have six mouths to feed but I need assistance from the government. They have left me to fend for myself in a desperate situation."

While one can understand Rikki 's frustration with his government, his accusatory tone is perhaps a little unfair. The Chad government has often seemed like a powerless, rudderless boat caught in the storm of international politics.

Angela Johnson at the Center For African Politics at UCLA sees little reason for optimism in the case of the shrinking lake in the African heartland. "The story of Chad Lake is a modern day environmental tragedy. This is a body of water that, in 1960 was over 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size - now it's less than 10% of that."

"It has been so over-exploited and it is an issue the whole international community, obviously more so those governments in Africa, need to co-operate on to find a resolution. And that isn't going to happen any time soon. By the time it does, they'll be arguing over a puddle in the middle of the desert. It's sad but that's how I see things panning out."

The guilty parties, as so often in these cases, blame each other for the problems that now beset the lake. Charlie Manson, who teaches Environmental Science at Cambridge University in Britain, explains why the lake is going the way of the Dodo. "The main culprit is geography funnily enough. Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon all lay claim to the waters of this lake and you only need a five metre shoreline to be able to extract water from it. The whole area has been a target for massive irrigation schemes over the last couple of decades with each country's agricultural ministry blaming the other three for the problems. In an area with plentiful rainfall, it wouldn't be so much of a problem. This is a dry area."

None of this gesturing and buck-passing will help Rikki, Belle and their four children in the near future. "I am learning how to fix cars. I don't think cars will be disappearing soon and will certainly last longer than this lake will," muses the glum-looking fisherman. "There won't be any more fishermen in this area in ten years." And with that, he says he has to go and study how to remove and repair brake pads.

1. Rikki has spent some time travelling in England. ☐
2. The lack of rain is not the only cause of the lake's reduction in size. ☐
3. Rikki's town, Bol, is further from the lake than it used to be. ☐
4. Lake Chad's disappearance is causing financial pressures for Rikki's family. ☐
5. Rikki feels the government should help him more. ☐
6. Angela Johnson wants the Chad government to save the lake. ☐

7. She thinks action will come too late to save the lake. ☐
8. Charlie Manson says permission to extract water is given too easily. ☐
9. The demands of agriculture have been largely responsible for the lake's problems. ☐
10. Rikki will work in a garage when the fishing becomes too bad. ☐

## **B**

### **The Human Body**

An Online Tour The human body is the most fascinating and fantastic machine in existence. No one understands all of its many mysteries; and no single source can do justice to its many parts.



Do you know that :

1. more than half the bones in the human body are in the hands and feet?
2. the highest recorded "sneeze speed" is 165 km (102 miles) per hour?
3. the heart beats about 3 billion times in the average person's lifetime?
4. a newborn baby has 350 bones, but a fully-grown adult has only 206?
5. blood is a liquid organ?
6. everyone is colorblind at birth?
7. the surface area of the lungs is approximately the same size as a tennis court?
8. food will get to your stomach even if you're standing on your head?
9. skin is the largest body organ?
10. the average adult is made up of 100 trillion cells?

How do you remember the way to your friend's house? Why do your eyes blink without you ever thinking about it? Where do dreams come from? Your brain is in charge of these things and a lot more.

In fact, your brain is the boss of your body. It runs the show and controls just about everything you do, even when you're asleep. Not bad for something that looks like a big, wrinkly, gray sponge.

Think back to last Halloween for a minute. Wherever you looked, there were vampires, ghosts, or bony skeletons grinning back at you. Vampires and ghosts don't really exist, but skeletons sure do!

Every single person has a skeleton made up of many bones. These bones give your body structure, let you move in many ways, protect your internal organs, and more. Did you know you have more than 600 muscles in your body? They do everything from pumping blood throughout your body to helping you lift your heavy backpack. You control some of your muscles, while others — like your heart — do their jobs without you thinking about them at all.

Did you hear something? Maybe the sound you heard was as quiet as your cat licking

her paws. Or maybe it was loud, like a siren going by. Sounds are everywhere, and you have two cool parts on your body that let you hear them all: your ears!  
Have your ears ever "popped" while flying in a plane or driving up a mountainside?

Your ears are in charge of collecting sounds, processing them, and sending sound signals to your brain. And that's not all — your ears also help you keep your balance. So if you bend over to pick up your cat, you won't fall down — or even worse — fall on your cat.

Which part of your body lets you read the back of a cereal box, check out a rainbow, and see a softball heading your way? Which part lets you cry when you're sad and makes tears to protect itself? Which part has muscles that adjust to let you focus on things that are close up or far away? If you guessed the eye, you're right!

Your eyes are at work from the moment you wake up to the moment you close them to go to sleep. They take in tons of information about the world around you — shapes, colors, movements, and more. Then they send the information to your brain for processing so the brain knows what's going on outside of your body.

## Vocabulary

Which is the largest organ of your body ?

- a. the brain b. The lungs c. The skin

Which organ helps you to keep your balance ?

- a. the eye b. The ear c the brain

How many bones has an adult person?

- a. 305 b. 206 c 1000

How many muscles has your body?

- a. more than 1000 b. More than 200 c more than 600

Which organ sends information to the brain about the world around you — shapes, colors, movements?

- a. the nose b. The eye c. The skin

Complete the spaces with one of the words from the box.

<b>Ear</b>	<b>stomach</b>	<b>nose</b>	<b>heart</b>	<b>blood</b>
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- 1 If you get a \_\_\_\_\_ bleed, pinch it with two fingers until it stops.
- 2 She'll have a \_\_\_\_\_ attack when she sees what you've done.
- 3 Of course he had a \_\_\_\_\_ ache. He ate far too many cream cakes.
- 4 With such high \_\_\_\_\_ pressure you should eat less salt.
- 5 She's got a bad \_\_\_\_\_ infection, so she can't come swimming.

<b>Ankle</b>	<b>nose</b>	<b>eye</b>	<b>throat</b>
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- 1 That's a nasty black \_\_\_\_\_. Did somebody hit you?
- 2 She's got a very sore \_\_\_\_\_. She can hardly speak.
- 3 You've got a runny \_\_\_\_\_. Would you like a handkerchief?
- 4 It's just a badly sprained \_\_\_\_\_. You haven't broken anything.

## GRAMMAR

### A

## PRESENT CONTINUOUS

The present continuous of any verb is composed of two parts - the present tense of the verb to be + the present participle of the main verb.

(The form of the present participle is: base+ing, e.g.  
talking, playing, moving, smiling)

### Affirmative

Subject	+ <i>to be</i>	+ <b>base + ing</b>
She	is	talking.

### Negative

Subject	+ <i>to be + not</i>	+ <b>base + ing</b>
She	is not (isn't)	talking

### Interrogative

<i>to be</i>	+ <b>subject</b>	+ <b>base + ing</b>
Is	she	talking?

## EXAMPLES: TO GO, PRESENT CONTINUOUS

### Affirmative

**I** am going

**You** are going

**He, she, it** is going

**We** are going

**You** are going

**They** are going

### Negative

**I** am not going

**You** aren't going.

**He, she, it** isn't going

**We** aren't going

**You** aren't going

**They** aren't going

### Interrogative

**Am I** going?

**Are you** going?

**Is he, she, it** going?

**Are we** going?

**Are you** going?

**Are they** going?

## THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS IS USED:

- to describe an action that is going on at this moment: **You are using** the Internet. **You are studying** English grammar.
- to describe an action that is going on during this period of time or a trend: **Are you still working** for the same company? More and more people **are becoming** vegetarian.
- to describe an action or event in the future, which has already been planned or prepared: **We're going** on holiday tomorrow. **I'm meeting** my boyfriend tonight. **Are they visiting** you next winter?
- to describe a temporary event or situation: He usually plays the drums, but **he's playing** bass guitar tonight. The weather forecast was good, but **it's raining** at the moment.
- with "always, forever, constantly", to describe and emphasise a continuing series of repeated actions: Harry and Sally **are always arguing!** **You're constantly complaining** about your mother-in-law!

**Exercise: Put the verb in brackets in the correct form to make different form of the Present Continuous Tense.**

1. John  (read) a book now.
2. What  (you do) tonight?
3. Jack and Peter  (work) late today.
4. Silvia  (not listen) to music.
5. Maria  (sit) next to Paul.
6. How many other students  (you study) with?
7. The phone  (not ring).

Put the words in the right order so that they form correct sentences:

- 1 I'm glasses. for my looking
- 2 you are reading? book kind What of
- 3 crying? Pamela is Why
- 4 studying Paul economics at Kharkov University. National is

5 Why everyone is laughing?

6 me? for waiting Are you

7 you leaving? are When

8 John Arabia working at in is Saudi moment. the

9 the as for company working you? Is Jennifer same

10 next do having come? Saturday I'm want to party a - you

Choose the correct present continuous form.

1. Look! Andy am working/are working/is working in the garden.

2. I am watching/are watching/is watching TV at the moment.

3. We am reading/are reading/is reading a book.

4. She am playing/are playing/is playing the piano.

5. Listen! Sue and John am singing/are singing/is singing.

Put the verbs into present continuous.

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. My sister (to clean)   | the bathroom.          |
| 2. Look! They (to go)     | inside.                |
| 3. I (to wait)            | in the car now.        |
| 4. Mrs Miller (to listen) | to CDs.                |
| 5. We (to speak)          | English at the moment. |

**Long and Short Forms** Rewrite the sentences using the short forms (where long forms are given) or the long forms (where short forms are given).

1. We are reading a letter.

2. He is opening the window.

3. I am playing computer games.
4. She's dancing at the party.
5. They're drinking a cup of tea.

### **Negative Sentences**

Rewrite the sentences using the negative forms.

1. We are playing a game.
2. I'm drawing a picture.
3. He is making pizza right now.
4. Susan and her brother are taking photos.
5. Dad is working in the kitchen.

### **Questions and Signal Words**

Write questions in present continuous.

1. Robin / to ride / his bike -
2. where / she / to go -
3. what / your mother / to do / now -
4. Which **is** a signal word for the present continuous?  
Often/ now / sometimes
5. Which **is not** a signal word for the present progressive?  
always / Look! / at the moment

### **GRAMMAR:**

**B**

### **PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE/ CONTINUOUS**

#### **Exercitii cu Present Perfect Simple si Continuous**

*Present Perfect Simple for the verbs in brackets:*



1. Where you (be)? I (be) to the market.
2. You (water) the flowers?
3. He just (leave) home.
4. I (lend) him some money today.
5. There isn't any train service because the engine – drivers (go) on strike.
6. Would you like a cake?
7. No, thank you, I just (have) one.
8. I already (see) this film.
9. He (not come) home yet.
10. I (not be) to the seaside this year.
11. I (buy) a new house. You must come and see it.
12. You (visit) the Village Museum?
13. You ever (eat) caviar?
14. I (not write) to my friend for three months.
15. It (not rain) since December.
16. You ever (drive) a car?
17. He always (rely on) his friend.
18. You (read) Sorescu's last book?
19. You (pay) the telephone bill?
20. He (not go) to bed yet.
21. How long you (live) here?
22. I (live) here for one year.

***Present Perfect Simple or Continuous for the verbs in brackets:***

1. He (fish) for two hours but he (catch) nothing yet.
2. We (know) each other for several years.
3. The radio (play) since 7 a.m. I'm tired of it.
4. I (shop) all day and I want to have a rest now.
5. How long you (wear) glasses?
6. I (cook) all the morning.
7. How many dishes you (cook)?
8. Why you (be) in the garden so long?
9. I (water) the flowers.

10. He (sleep) for 10 hours now. It's time we woke him up.
11. I (ask) you to clean your room for two days. When are you going to do it?
12. Ever since that woman came to work here, she (try) to make trouble.

***Present Perfect Simple or Continuous or Past Tense Simple for the verbs in brackets:***

1. I (lose) my pen. You (not see) it anywhere?  
No, I haven't. When you (use) it last?
2. Your ever (try) to give up smoking?  
Yes, I (try) last year but I (not succeed).
3. You (see) your mother this week?  
No, she (leave) for Brasov a week ago.
4. You (be) out of work long?
5. I am not out of work now. I (get) a job last month.
6. I (wear) my hair long since I (be) a little girl.
7. She (change) a lot since I (see) her last.
8. I (do) a lot of work since I (get up) in the morning.
9. The child (play) the piano since I (return) from school.
10. It (rain) since we (leave) Bucharest.
11. He (be) very ill since the holidays (begin).

***Translate into English using Past Tense Simple or Present Perfect Simple or Continuous:***

1. Cine te-a invatat sa vorbesti engleza atat de bine?
2. Unde ti-ai petrecut vacanta anul acesta?
3. M-am gandit adesea sa-mi iau carnet de conducere.
4. De cat timp inveti engleza?
5. Vremea s-a incalzit in ultimul timp.
6. El este ministru de doi ani.
7. Traduc un text de doua ore si nu l-am terminat inca.
8. El a scris numai doua scrisori de cand a plecat in strainatate.
9. Un copil a spart geamul. Trebuie sa-l inlocuim.
10. Ninge de doua ore.

11. Am mers pe jos 10 km pana acum.
12. Mergem pe jos de la ora 3.
13. De cand mi-am cumparat masina, am mers arareori pe jos la slujba.
14. La ce te-ai uitat?
15. A fost un accident.
16. Cu cine ai votat la ultimele alegeri?
17. Nu am mers la vot. Am stat acasa si nu am regretat nici o clipa.
18. Ai vazut ziarul de azi?
19. A plecat John?
20. Da, a plecat acum o ora.
21. Ti-ai luat deja micul dejun?
22. Da, l-am luat la ora 8.
23. Ai mai fost in acest oras?
24. Da, am petrecut o luna aici, acum doi ani.
25. Ei lucreaza la aceasta casa de un an si nu au terminat-o inca.