Usually … but today …

Present simple and present continuous · A2–B1 · Adults and teens

1. Ask about three different days. Take turns. Ask two questions about each person: What does … usually do? What is … doing now? Explain one difference.

Tess · USUALLY
She works in a library.

Tess · TODAY
She’s painting her kitchen.

Jo · USUALLY
He makes coffee in a café.

Jo · TODAY
He’s cycling in the park.

Noor · USUALLY
She delivers parcels.

Noor · TODAY
She’s playing the guitar.

JOBS & ROUTINES
She **works.** She **doesn’t work.**
Does she **work**?
What **does** she usually **do**?

NOW / TODAY
She **is painting.** She **isn’t working.**
Is she **painting**?
What **is** she **doing** now?

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The usual Tuesday

Keep this page private. Your partner has today’s photo messages.

YOUR MISSION: Ask what each person is doing now. Find the two people doing something different from their usual Tuesday at 10:00.

STAFF & FRIENDS DIRECTORY / USUAL WORK AT 10:00

Ada · Software developer

Writes apps in an office.

Ben · Vet

Treats animals in a clinic.

Cleo · Florist

Arranges flowers in a shop.

Dan · Mechanic

Repairs cars in a garage.

Ask about now: What is Ada doing?
Tell B her routine: She usually writes apps.
Compare: … usually …, but today … . Is their day different?
Finish: Agree two names and explain both differences to your teacher.

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Your usual day. Your day today.

Take turns. Follow an interesting answer rather than racing through every question.

3. Choose a question. Give an example. Ask one more.

USUALLY

1. What do you usually do before work or your first lesson?

2. Where do you usually work or study? What do you do there?

3. What do you usually do after work or school?

4. Which job interests you? What does that person do?

5. How do you usually spend a free morning?

6. What does someone you know do for work?

NOW & THESE DAYS

7. What are you doing differently today?

8. What are you wearing that you don’t wear every day?

9. What is happening outside your window now?

10. Are you reading or watching anything interesting these days?

11. What skill are you practising at the moment?

12. Imagine a friend is enjoying a day off. What are they doing?

Keep the conversation going
Why? / How often? / Who with? / Tell me more. / Is that usual for you?
Say it again: After feedback, retell one answer more clearly. Include a routine and something happening now. Your partner asks a new question. You may invent an answer or pass.

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