

## Present simple (I do)

A Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep.  
He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. He is a bus driver.

**drive(s), work(s), do(es)** etc. is the *present simple*:

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| I/we/you/they | <b>drive/work/do</b> etc. |
|---------------|---------------------------|

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| he/she/it | <b>drives/works/does</b> etc. |
|-----------|-------------------------------|

B We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- ☐ Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- ☐ I usually **go** away at weekends.
- ☐ The earth **goes** round the sun.
- ☐ The cafe **opens** at 7.30 in the morning.

We say:

|                   |     |                          |               |     |                |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------------|---------------|-----|----------------|
| I <b>work</b>     | but | he <b>works</b>          | you <b>go</b> | but | it <b>goes</b> |
| they <b>teach</b> | but | my sister <b>teaches</b> | I <b>have</b> | but | he <b>has</b>  |

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

C We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

|             |               |               |               |                |              |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>do</b>   | I/we/you/they | <b>work?</b>  | I/we/you/they | <b>don't</b>   | <b>work</b>  |
| <b>does</b> | he/she/it     | <b>drive?</b> | he/she/it     | <b>doesn't</b> | <b>drive</b> |
|             |               | <b>do?</b>    |               |                | <b>do</b>    |

- ☐ I come from Canada. Where **do** you **come** from?
- ☐ I **don't go** away very often.
- ☐ What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- ☐ Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do** etc.):

- ☐ 'What **do** you **do**?' 'I work in a shop.'
- ☐ He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.

D We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- ☐ I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- ☐ **How often do** you **go** to the dentist?
- ☐ Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- ☐ Robert usually **goes** away **two or three times a year**.

E I promise / I apologise etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you promise to do something, you can say 'I **promise** ...'; when you suggest something, you can say 'I **suggest** ...':

- ☐ I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- ☐ 'What do you **suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

In the same way we say: I **apologise** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **agree** ... / I **refuse** ... etc.

# Exercises

Unit  
2

## 2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s)    close(s)    connect(s)    go(es)    live(s)    speak(s)    take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 Ben and Jack ..... to the same school.
- 3 Bad driving ..... many accidents.
- 4 The museum ..... at 4 o'clock on Sundays.
- 5 My parents ..... in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games ..... place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal ..... the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

## 2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time ..... (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I have a car, but I ..... (not / use) it much.
- 4 Where ..... (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish?
- 5 'What ..... (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 Look at this sentence. What ..... (this word / mean)?
- 7 David isn't very fit. He ..... (not / do) any sport.
- 8 It ..... (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long ..... (it / take) you?

## 2.3 Complete the sentences using these verbs. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe    eat    flow    go    grow    make    rise    tell    translate

- 1 The earth goes round the sun.
- 2 Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.
- 3 The sun ..... in the east.
- 4 Bees ..... honey.
- 5 Vegetarians ..... meat.
- 6 An atheist ..... in God.
- 7 An interpreter ..... from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who ..... the truth.
- 9 The River Amazon ..... into the Atlantic Ocean.

## 2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
How often do you play tennis ?
- 2 Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.  
..... your sister ..... ?
- 3 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
..... ?
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.  
..... ?
- 5 You're not sure whether Lisa speaks Spanish. You want to know. Ask her.  
..... ?
- 6 You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.  
..... ?

## 2.5 Complete using the following:

I agree    I apologise    I insist    I promise    I recommend    I suggest

- 1 Mr Evans is not in the office today. I suggest you try calling him tomorrow.
- 2 I won't tell anybody what you said. ....
- 3 (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal. ....
- 4 ..... for what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- 5 The new restaurant in Baker Street is very good. .... it.
- 6 I think you're absolutely right. .... with you.