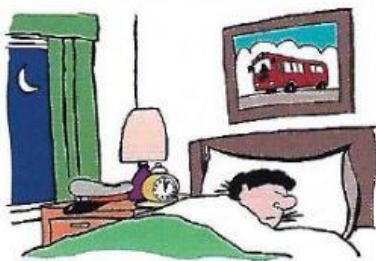


PRESENT SIMPLE

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 **drive/work/do** etc.

he/she/it **drives/works/does** 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.

Remember:

I **work** ... but He **works** ... They **teach** ... but My sister **teaches** ...

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

C

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

do	I/we/you/they he/she/it	work? drive? do?		I/we/you/they he/she/it	don't doesn't	work drive do
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- 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

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) connect(s) drink(s) live(s) open(s) speak(s) take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 I don't often coffee.
- 3 The swimming pool at 7.30 every morning.
- 4 Bad driving many accidents.
- 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 Julie doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I've got a car, but I (not / use) it much.
- 4 'Where (Ricardo / come) from?' 'From Cuba.'
- 5 'What (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 It (take) me an hour to get to work. How long (it / take) you?
- 7 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- 8 David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport.

2.3 Use the following verbs to complete the sentences. 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 Britain.
- 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 reads a newspaper every day. You want to know which one. Ask her.
?
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.
?
- 5 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. 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 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 did. It won't happen again.
- 5 The new restaurant in Hill Street is very good. it.