

# 3 Present Simple (1)

1 We form the Present Simple like this:

POSITIVE	
Singular	I know you know he/she/it knows
Plural	we know you know they know

*I know the answer.*  
*She starts work at 9.30.*

We add -s after he/she/it:

I start → he starts    I live → she lives

If a verb ends in -ch, -o, -sh or -ss, we add -es after he/she/it:

I watch → he watches    you do → he does  
they go → it goes    we wash → she washes

If a verb ends in a consonant (b, c, etc.) + y (e.g. study), we use -ies after he/she/it:

I study → he studies    I fly → it flies

(For more examples, see Appendix 2, page 243.)

2 Now look at these examples of the negative:

*I don't like that music.*  
*He doesn't listen to his teacher.*

NEGATIVE	
FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I do not know.	I don't know.
You do not know.	You don't know.
He/She/It does not know.	He doesn't know.
We do not know.	We don't know.
You do not know.	You don't know.
They do not know.	They don't know.

Note that we say:

*He does not know.* (NOT *He does not knows.*)

3 We use the Present Simple:

- ▶ to talk about things that happen regularly:  
*He plays golf every day.*

- ▶ to talk about facts:  
*She comes from France.*  
(= She is French.)  
*Greengrocers sell vegetables.*  
*I don't speak Chinese.*



## Practice

A Add -s or -es to the verbs in the sentences if it is necessary. If it is not necessary, put a tick (✓) in the gap.

- ▶ He work s in a bank.
- ▶ They live ✓ in France.
- 1 I watch ..... TV every day.
- 2 She go ..... to work by car.
- 3 The film finish ..... at ten o'clock.
- 4 We play ..... tennis every weekend.
- 5 They go ..... on holiday in August.
- 6 He speak ..... Italian and French.
- 7 She do ..... her homework every night.
- 8 We start ..... work at half past eight.

B Now finish these sentences using a verb from the box. Use each verb once. Remember to add -s or -es if necessary.

fly    study    finish    eat    sell    smoke    drink    live

- ▶ He eats toast for breakfast.
- 1 I ..... coffee three times a day.
- 2 My father ..... a new language every year.
- 3 She ..... to New York once a month.
- 4 He ..... ten cigarettes a day.
- 5 They ..... in Ireland.
- 6 He ..... work at six o'clock.
- 7 I ..... fruit in a shop.

**C** Write these sentences, using the negative form of the Present Simple.

- ▶ (He/not/live/in Mexico) *He doesn't live in Mexico.*
- 1 (She/not/work/in a bank) .....
- 2 (I/not/play/golf) .....
- 3 (Paul/not/listen/to the radio) .....
- 4 (We/not/speak/French) .....
- 5 (You/not/listen/to me!) .....
- 6 (My car/not/work) .....
- 7 (I/not/drink/tea) .....
- 8 (Sheila/not/eat/meat) .....
- 9 (I/not/understand/you) .....

**D** Put in the verbs from the box, in the Present Simple. Use each verb once.

leave	start	arrive	get	watch	work	brush
eat	have	like	drink	go	stop	

Interviewer: How do you start the day, Jim?

Jim: Well, I (▶) *get* ..... up at six o'clock. I get washed and dressed, and I (1) ..... breakfast at seven o'clock. After breakfast, I (2) ..... my teeth. I (3) ..... to work at eight.

Interviewer: When do you get to work?

Jim: I usually (4) ..... at my office at about half past eight. First, I (5) ..... a cup of coffee, and then I (6) ..... work at 8.45 a.m.

Interviewer: Where do you work?

Jim: I (7) ..... in a bank. I am a computer operator. I (8) ..... my job. It's very interesting.

Interviewer: When do you eat lunch?

Jim: I (9) ..... work and I have lunch at one o'clock. I (10) ..... a cup of tea at half past three.

Interviewer: When do you finish work?

Jim: I (11) ..... the office at six o'clock. I eat dinner when I get home. Then I (12) ..... TV for an hour or two.

**E** Use the table to write facts about Joan. A tick (✓) means that something is true. A cross (X) means that something is not true. Use the verbs in brackets ( ).

▶	1	2	3	4
from Scotland ✓	in a bank X	in a flat ✓	French ✓	new films X
from England X	in a shop ✓	in a house X	Italian X	old films ✓

▶ (come) *She comes from Scotland.*

▶ *She doesn't come from England.*

1 (work) She ..... in a bank.

She ..... in a shop.

2 (live) She .....

She .....

3 (speak) .....

.....

4 (like) .....

.....