

Present Simple



1 Use

We use the Present Simple for

- ▶ thoughts and feelings: *I think so, I like it.*
- ▶ states, things staying the same, facts and things that are true for a long time:
We live quite near
- ▶ repeated actions: *We come here every week.*

and also

- ▶ in phrases like *I promise, I agree, etc:*
I promise I'll pay you back.
- ▶ in a negative question with *why* to make a suggestion: *Why don't we go out?*

2 Positive forms

I/you/we/they get
he/she/it gets

In the Present Simple we use the verb without an ending.

I get the lunch ready at one o'clock, usually. *We always do our shopping at Greenway.*
Most children like ice-cream. *You know the answer.*

But in the third person singular (after *he, she, it, your friend, etc*), the verb ends in *-s* or *-es*.

It gets busy at weekends. *My husband thinks so, too.*
Sarah catches the early train. *She faxes messages all over the world.*

3 Negatives and questions

NEGATIVE

I/you/we/they do not get OR don't get
he/she/it does not get OR doesn't get

QUESTION

do I/we/you/they get?
does he/she/it get?

We use a form of *do* in negatives and questions (but see Unit 37). We use *do* and *don't* except in the third person singular, where we use *does* and *doesn't*.

We don't live far away. *He doesn't want to go shopping.*
Do you live here? ~ Yes, I do. *What does he want? ~ Money.*

We do not add *-s* to the verb in negatives and questions.

NOT *He doesn't gets* and NOT *Does he gets?*

Practice

A Use (1)

Look at each underlined verb and say what kind of meaning it expresses. Is it a thought, a feeling, a fact or a repeated action?

- ▶ Matthew loves sport. a feeling
- ▶ Sarah often works late at the office. a repeated action
- 1 I hate quiz programmes.
- 2 We play table tennis every Thursday.
- 3 The computer belongs to Emma.
- 4 These plates cost £20 each.
- 5 I believe it's the right thing to do.
- 6 I'm hungry. I want something to eat.
- 7 I usually go to work by bus.
- 8 It's OK. I understand your problem.

B Forms (2–3)

Complete the sentences by putting in the verbs. Use the Present Simple. You have to decide if the verb is positive or negative.

- ▶ Claire is very sociable. She knows (know) lots of people.
- ▶ We've got plenty of chairs, thanks. We don't want (want) any more.
- 1 My friend is finding life in Paris a bit difficult. He (speak) French.
- 2 Most students live quite close to the college, so they (walk) there.
- 3 My sports kit is really muddy. This shirt (need) a good wash.
- 4 I've got four cats and two dogs. I (love) animals.
- 5 No breakfast for Mark, thanks. He (eat) breakfast.
- 6 What's the matter? You (look) very happy.
- 7 Don't try to ring the bell. It (work).
- 8 I hate telephone answering machines. I just (like) talking to them.
- 9 Matthew is good at badminton. He (win) every game.
- 10 We always travel by bus. We (own) a car.

C Forms (2–3)

Complete the conversation. Put in the Present Simple forms.

Rita: ▶ Do you like (you / like) football, Tom?

Tom: ▶ I love (I / love) it. I'm a United fan. (1) (I / go) to all their games. Nick usually (2) (come) with me. And (3) (we / travel) to away games, too. Why (4) (you / not / come) to a match some time?

Rita: I'm afraid football (5) (not / make) sense to me — men running after a ball. Why (6) (you / take) it so seriously?

Tom: It's a wonderful game. (7) (I / love) it. United are my whole life.

Rita: How much (8) (it / cost) to buy the tickets and pay for the travel?

Tom: A lot. (9) (I / not / know) exactly how much. But (10) (that / not / matter) to me. (11) (I / not / want) to do anything else. (12) (that / annoy) you?

Rita: No, (13) (it / not / annoy) me. I just (14) (find) it a bit sad.