

4 When do I use the present simple tense?

1 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Nowadays, our bodies becoming 'old' much later than 100 years ago.
b Nowadays, our bodies become 'old' much later than 100 years ago.
- 2 a Children lost their freedom if they have too many responsibilities.
b Children lose their freedom if they have too many responsibilities.

We use the present simple tense:

- to make general statements about our world: *The earth **moves** around the sun.*
- to show a pattern or general truth: *People **work** in order to meet their basic needs.*
- with adverbs of frequency: *always, usually, often, sometimes, never.* *People who are too lazy to walk **often use** their cars instead.*
- with expressions such as: *nowadays, these days, today* (with a general meaning): *Many students **today do** their research via computer rather than through books.*
- for verbs showing opinions or feelings, e.g. *believe, think, hope*: *I **think** that we should all do as much as we can to improve our environment.*

We form the present simple tense with the base form of the verb. We add *s* or *es* to form the 3rd person singular:

<i>I play</i>	<i>I watch</i>
<i>you play</i>	<i>you watch</i>
<i>he/she/it plays</i>	<i>he/she/it watches</i>
<i>we play</i>	<i>we watch</i>
<i>you play</i>	<i>you watch</i>
<i>they play</i>	<i>they watch</i>

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Correct the mistakes in the sentences below.

- 1 People should act according to what they are believing.
- 2 In general, I think our government spent too much money on space travel.
- 3 Nowadays, many people in my country have sent their children to single-sex schools.
- 4 These days, more and more people travelling to very distant places for their holidays.
- 5 I am hoping it is not too late to save the environment.
- 6 The female hen laying on average 5 or 6 eggs per week.
- 7 Younger drivers is more likely to be involved in a car accident.
- 8 Most doctors are agreeing that the only way to lose weight is by doing more exercise.