

# PRESENT SIMPLE

English Grammar in Use, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

## Grammar

**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.

## Exercises

### 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.