

PRESENT SIMPLE

English Grammar in Use, 5th 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 **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.

We say:

I **work** but he **works**
they **teach** but my sister **teaches**

you **go** but it **goes**
I **have** but he **has**

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

C

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

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

- 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 go to the same school.
- 3 Bad driving causes many accidents.
- 4 The museum opens at 4 o'clock on Sundays.
- 5 My parents live in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games take place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal connects 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 do (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I have a car, but I use (not / use) it much.
- 4 Where comes (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish?
- 5 'What do (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 Look at this sentence. What means (this word / mean)?
- 7 David isn't very fit. He does (not / do) any sport.
- 8 It takes (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long takes (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 rises in the east.
- 4 Bees make honey.
- 5 Vegetarians don't eat meat.
- 6 An atheist doesn't believe in God.
- 7 An interpreter translate from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who tell the truth.
- 9 The River Amazon flows into the Atlantic Ocean.