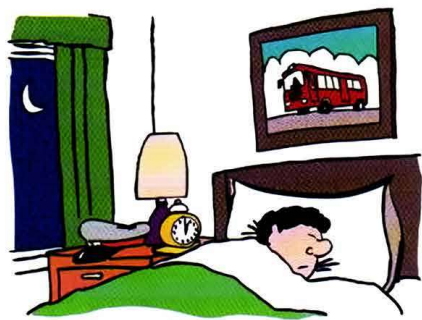


## Present simple (I do)

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.
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he/she/it	<b>drives/works/does</b>	etc.
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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.

Remember:

I **work** ... but He **works** ... They **teach** ... but My sister **teaches** ...

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

C

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

<b>do</b> <b>does</b>	I/we/you/they he/she/it	<b>work?</b> <b>drive?</b> <b>do?</b>	I/we/you/they he/she/it	<b>don't</b> <b>doesn't</b>	<b>work</b> <b>drive</b> <b>do</b>
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- ☐ 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.

D

We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- ☐ I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- ☐ **How often** do you **go** to the dentist?
- ☐ Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- ☐ Robert usually **goes** away **two or three times a year**.

E

I **promise** / I **apologise** etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you *promise* to do something, you can say 'I **promise** ...'; when you *suggest* something, you can say 'I **suggest** ...':

- ☐ I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- ☐ 'What do you **suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

In the same way we say: I **apologise** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **agree** ... / I **refuse** ... etc.

## Exercises

## 2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s)    connect(s)    drink(s)    live(s)    open(s)    ~~speaks(s)~~    take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 I don't often ..... coffee.
- 3 The swimming pool ..... at 7.30 every morning.
- 4 Bad driving ..... many accidents.
- 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 Julie doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time ..... (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I've got a car, but I ..... (not / use) it much.
- 4 'Where ..... (Ricardo / come) from?' 'From Cuba.'
- 5 'What ..... (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 It ..... (take) me an hour to get to work. How long  
..... (it / take) you?
- 7 Look at this sentence. What ..... (this word / mean)?
- 8 David isn't very fit. He ..... (not / do) any sport.

## 2.3 Use the following verbs to complete the sentences. Sometimes you need the negative:

believe    eat    flow    ~~go~~    ~~grow~~    make    rise    tell    translate

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The earth <u>goes</u> round the sun. | 7 An interpreter ..... from one language into another. |
| 2 Rice <u>doesn't grow</u> in Britain. | 8 Liars are people who ..... the truth.                |
| 3 The sun ..... in the east.           | 9 The River Amazon ..... into the Atlantic Ocean.      |
| 4 Bees ..... honey.                    |  |
| 5 Vegetarians ..... meat.              |  |
| 6 An atheist ..... in God.             |  |

## 2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
How often do you play tennis ?
- 2 Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.  
..... your sister ..... ?
- 3 You know that Lisa reads a newspaper every day. You want to know which one. Ask her.  
..... ?
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.  
..... ?
- 5 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.  
..... ?
- 6 You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.  
..... ?

## 2.5 Complete using the following:

I apologise    I insist    I promise    I recommend    ~~+suggest~~

- 1 Mr Evans is not in the office today. I suggest you try calling him tomorrow.
- 2 I won't tell anybody what you said. ....
- 3 (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal. ....
- 4 ..... for what I did. It won't happen again.
- 5 The new restaurant in Hill Street is very good. .... it.