

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	drive/work/do	etc.
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he/she/it	drives/works/does	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:

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

- 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

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|--|--|
| 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 ~~I 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.