

02

Present simple Forms, uses, and contexts

1 Some examples of the **present simple**:

*I **read** a newspaper every day.*
*She **doesn't like** this kind of music.*
*When **does** the party **start** tomorrow?*

2 Forms of the **present simple**:

POSITIVE

I/you/we/they **know**
 he/she/it **knows**

NEGATIVE

I/you/we/they **do not know / don't know**
 he/she/it **does not know / doesn't know**

QUESTIONS

do I/you/we/they **know**
does he/she/it **know**

3 The **he/she/it** form:

For most verbs, add -s:

work → works like → likes buy → buys

For verbs ending -ch, -o, -sh, -x and -ss, add -es:

catch → catches go → goes
 wash → washes fix → fixes
 pass → passes

For verbs ending with a consonant and -y,
 take away -y and add -ies:

study → studies cry → cries fly → flies

For **have**:

have → has

(For more information on the **he/she/it** form, see p. 129.)

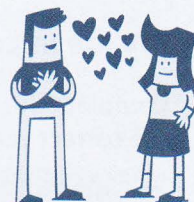
Grammar in action

1 We use the **present simple** for facts and things that are always true:
*Some doctors **work** in hospitals.*

2 We use the **present simple** for habits and repeated actions:
*She **takes** the bus to work.*



3 We use the **present simple** to talk about thoughts or feelings, for example to say what we *like*, *want*, *think*, or *know*:
*He **loves** her very much.*



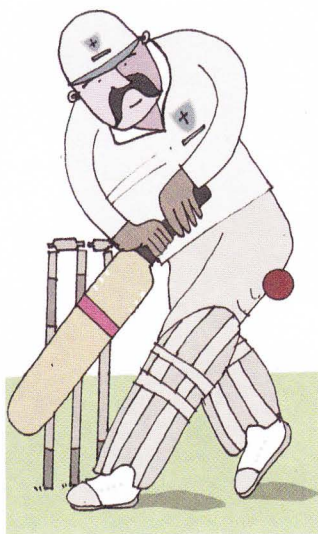
4 We use the **present simple** for the **future**, to talk about events on a timetable. Here, someone is looking at a TV schedule:

*The film tomorrow **starts** at 8.30 and **finishes** at 11.*

A Some facts about cricket

These are some facts about the sport of cricket. If the verb form is correct, put a tick (✓). If the verb form is incorrect, write the correct verb form.

- A cricket team have has 11 players and they usually wear ✓ white.
- Cricket has a lot of rules and lots of people aren't understand it.
- In a game of cricket, the bowler throws the ball and the batsman tries to hit it.
- The fielders stand around the field and they stop the ball.
- If a fielder catches the ball, the batsman is 'out', and he leaves the field.
- If the batsman doesn't hits the ball and the ball hits the wicket, he is also out.
- You win a game if you score more 'runs' than the other team.
- Some cricket matches lasts for five days and nobody wins !
- Some people doesn't like cricket but millions watch it on TV.



B A typical day at work

Complete this magazine article by a businesswoman, using the present simple forms of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms for negatives.

Business as usual

I usually arrive⁰ (arrive) at the office very early. My assistant Cheryl¹ (bring) me the mail and² (tell) me what is in my diary for the day. She³ (do) a lot of very important work for me – she⁴ (organize) my day and⁵ (deal) with a lot of people for me. Then I⁶ (have) a meeting with my team of managers – we⁷ (discuss) plans and problems. Sometimes they⁸ (not agree) with me but the meetings usually⁹ (not last) for very long.

I¹⁰ (not eat) much at lunchtime – the others¹¹ (go) to the canteen but I¹² (stay) in my office and someone¹³ (get) me a sandwich. My day usually¹⁴ (finish) at about 6 p.m.

I¹⁵ (not go) to the office every day. I¹⁶ (work) at home some days and I sometimes¹⁷ (travel) to meetings or conferences.

C Using the library

Complete the questions and answers in a survey of people using a library, using the present simple and the words in brackets.

INTERVIEWER Do you live⁰ in the local area? (you/live)

WOMAN Yes, I live⁰ close to here. (I/live)

INTERVIEWER¹ this library very often? (you/visit)

WOMAN No,² here very often. (I/not come)

INTERVIEWER What³ in the library? (you/do)

WOMAN⁴ the newspapers and⁵ books. (I/read) (I/borrow)

INTERVIEWER What kind of books⁶? (you/borrow)

WOMAN Fiction.⁷ a good fiction section. (The library/have)

INTERVIEWER⁸ the library? (other members of your family/use)

WOMAN Yes,⁹ some of her college work here. (my daughter/do)

Which of these words in exercise B is not used only in connection with work?

- A office
- B diary
- C canteen
- D conferences

WORD FOCUS



D Timetable for tomorrow's school trip

Complete this notice about a school trip in the future, using the present simple and the correct verbs from the list.

go start meet show leave return finish get attend arrive have

Here are the details for tomorrow's trip. We meet⁰ outside the school at 8. The coach¹ at 8.30 so don't be late! We² at the museum at 10. A guide³ us round the museum from 10 to 12. We⁴ to the museum restaurant for lunch at 12 and we⁵ lunch from 12 to 1. In the afternoon, we⁶ a lecture in one of the lecture rooms. It⁷ at 1 and⁸ at 2.30. We⁹ back on the coach at 3 and we¹⁰ to the school at 4.30.

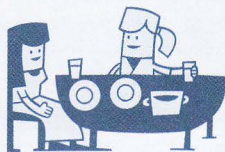
- 4 Compare the **present simple** and the **present continuous**:

He sits at a desk every day.

He's sitting at his desk at the moment.

Grammar in action

- 5 We use the **present simple** to talk about facts that are always true. We use the **present continuous** to talk about things that are only true at the moment or in the present period of time:



You cook wonderful meals.
(= always or usually)



He's cooking a meal in the kitchen.
(= right now)

- 6 We use the **present simple** for permanent situations. We use the **present continuous** for temporary situations:

My husband works for a computer company, but he's working at home today.

- 7 We use the **present simple** for things we do regularly (e.g. in our daily routine). We can use it with words and phrases describing how often something happens (*always, sometimes, often, never, usually, every day, etc.*):
- I go to bed at ten and get up at six every day.*

We do not use the present continuous with this meaning:

I sometimes wear a hat.

(NOT *I'm sometimes wearing a hat.*)

- 8 We often use the **present continuous** with 'now' and phrases meaning 'now', for example *at the moment, right now, this week, this month*. We do not use the present simple with these words and phrases:
- I'm sitting in a traffic jam at the moment.* (NOT *I sit ...*)

- 9 We use the **present simple** with verbs that describe what we feel and think. These verbs are connected with what is in our minds, not with actions. They describe what we like (for example *like, dislike, hate, love*), what we want (*want, need*), what we know (*know, understand, realize, remember*) and what we believe (*believe, think*). We do not use the present continuous with these verbs:

I don't understand this letter.

(NOT *I'm not understanding this letter.*)

E Over to our reporter

Complete what the television reporter says by choosing the present simple or present continuous form.

Hello, *I'm standing*⁰ outside a very famous person's house.¹
in films and² millions of dollars for every film.³
on the front cover of magazines and people all over the world⁴
her and⁵ her. And people⁶ about her at the
moment because the media⁷ stories about her private life. She
.....⁸ her private life but right now everyone⁹ to
know about it. Can you guess who it is?

Dozens of photographers are here too and¹⁰ for her to come out.
Ah, the front door¹¹ now and someone¹² out.

- 0 I stand / I'm standing
1 She stars / She's starring
2 she earns / she's earning
3 She appears / She's appearing
4 know / are knowing
5 love / are loving
6 talk / are talking

- 7 tell / are telling
8 doesn't usually discuss / isn't usually discussing
9 wants / is wanting
10 we wait / we're waiting
11 opens / is opening
12 comes / is coming



F Someone to write to

Complete this letter in an international magazine for teenagers, using the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms.

Letter of the month

I *'m looking*⁰ (look) for someone to write to in another country. I¹ (speak) quite good English but I² (want) to get better at it. And I³ (think) it's good to have friends in different parts of the world.

I⁴ (go) to a local school and this term we⁵ (study) for our exams. I⁶ (work) very hard at school now because I⁷ (need) to get good results. In my spare time, I⁸ (like) classical music but I⁹ (not like) much modern pop music. I¹⁰ (not play) video games and I¹¹ (not watch)

TV much – I¹² (read) a lot of books and at the moment I¹³ (try) to read fiction in English. I¹⁴ (take) an interest in sports but I¹⁵ (not play) any sports regularly.

My family? My father¹⁶ (work) for an international company and he¹⁷ (travel) a lot – right now he¹⁸ (travel) in South-East Asia. He always¹⁹ (buy) me something interesting from these trips and at the moment I²⁰ (use) a computer that he bought me. I hope that I²¹ (not make) too many mistakes!

G Adverts

Complete the extracts from adverts, using the present simple or present continuous and the words in brackets.

0 Do you want (you/want) to improve your computer skills?
This month *we're/we are*
..... *offering* (we/offer) free lessons.

1 (you look)
for a new job?
Our agency always
(have) **hundreds of interesting jobs.**

2 (you/need)
a new TV?
..... (We/take)
10% off all our TVs this month.

3 People (love)
this area and (it/
become) **very popular with tourists.**

4 (We/serve)
thousands of customers every week
and many of them
(come) **back to us again.**

5 **Our company**
(grow) **and**
(we/look) **for more staff.**

6 **The box office**
(open) **at 8 a.m. every day, but hurry,**
tickets (sell) **fast.**