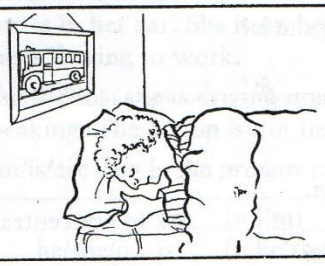
UNIT 2

Present simple (I do)

A

Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep. So:
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 are not thinking only about now. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general. It is not important whether the action is happening at the time of speaking:

- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- I usually **go** away at weekends.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.

Remember that we say: **he/she/it -s**. Don't forget the **s**:

- 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 does	I/we/you/they he/she/it	work? come? do?

I/we/you/they he/she/it	don't doesn't	work come do

- I come from Canada. Where **do you come** from?
- 'Would you like a cigarette?' 'No, thanks. I **don't smoke**.'
- 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:

- 'What **do** you do?' (= What's your job?) 'I work in a shop.'
- He's so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help me. (*not* 'He doesn't anything')

D

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

- I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**. (*not* 'I'm getting')
- **How often do** you go to the dentist? (*not* 'How often are you going?')
- Ann **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- In summer John **usually plays** tennis **once or twice a week**.

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**...'. We use the present simple (**promise/suggest** etc.) in sentences like this:

- 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.

Present simple and present continuous → UNITS 3–4 Present simple for the future → UNIT 19

EXERCISES

2.1 *Complete the sentences using one of the following:*

cause(s) close(s) drink(s) live(s) open(s) ~~speak(s)~~ take(s) place

1 Ann ...speaks... German very well.
2 I never ..... coffee.
3 The swimming pool ..... at 9 o'clock and ..... at 18.30 every day.
4 Bad driving ..... many accidents.
5 My parents ..... in a very small flat.
6 The Olympic Games ..... every four years.

2.2 *Put the verb into the correct form.*

1 Jane ...doesn't drink... (not/drink) tea very often.
2 What time ..... (the banks / close) in Britain?
3 'Where ..... (Martin/come) from?' 'He's Scottish.'
4 'What ..... (you/do)?' 'I'm an electrical engineer.'
5 It ..... (take) me an hour to get to work. How long ..... (it/take) you?
6 I ..... (play) the piano but I ..... (not/play) very well.
7 I don't understand this sentence. What ..... (this word/mean)?

2.3 *Use one of the following verbs to complete these sentences. 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 Britain.
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 A liar is someone who ..... the truth.
9 The River Amazon ..... into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 *Ask Liz questions about herself and her family.*

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

2.5 *Complete using one of the following:*

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

1 It's a nice day. ...I suggest... we go out for a walk.
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 said about you. It wasn't true and I shouldn't have said it.
5 The new restaurant in Hill Street is very good. ..... it.