

3 Present Simple (1)

1 We form the Present Simple like this:

POSITIVE	
<i>Singular</i>	I know you know he/she/it knows
<i>Plural</i>	we know you know they know

I know the answer.
She starts work at 9.30.

We add -s after he/she/it:

I start → he starts I live → she lives

If a verb ends in -ch, -o, -sh or -ss, we add -es after he/she/it:

I watch → he watches you do → he does
they go → it goes we wash → she washes

If a verb ends in a consonant (b, c, etc.) + y (e.g. study), we use -ies after he/she/it:

I study → he studies I fly → it flies

(For more examples, see Appendix 2, page 243.)

2 Now look at these examples of the negative:

I don't like that music.
He doesn't listen to his teacher.

NEGATIVE	
FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I do not know.	I don't know.
You do not know.	You don't know.
He/She/It does not know.	He doesn't know.
We do not know.	We don't know.
You do not know.	You don't know.
They do not know.	They don't know.

Note that we say:

He does not know. (NOT *He does not knows.*)

3 We use the Present Simple:

▶ to talk about things that happen regularly:
He plays golf every day.

▶ to talk about facts:
She comes from France.
(= She is French.)
Greengrocers sell vegetables.
I don't speak Chinese.



Practice

A Add -s or -es to the verbs in the sentences if it is necessary. If it is not necessary, put a tick (✓) in the gap.

- ▶ He work in a bank.
- ▶ They live in France.
- 1 I watch TV every day.
- 2 She go to work by car.
- 3 The film finish at ten o'clock.
- 4 We play tennis every weekend.
- 5 They go on holiday in August.
- 6 He speak Italian and French.
- 7 She do her homework every night.
- 8 We start work at half past eight.

B Now finish these sentences using a verb from the box. Use each verb once. Remember to add -s or -es if necessary.

fly study finish eat sell smoke drink live

- ▶ He *eats*..... toast for breakfast.
- 1 I coffee three times a day.
- 2 My father a new language every year.
- 3 She to New York once a month.
- 4 He ten cigarettes a day.
- 5 They in Ireland.
- 6 He work at six o'clock.
- 7 I fruit in a shop.