

a Study this example situation:

	<p>Alex is a bus driver. But now he is asleep in bed.</p> <p>So: He is <i>not</i> driving a bus (he is asleep).</p> <p><i>But</i>: He drives a bus.</p>
<p>This is the <i>present simple</i> tense:</p> <p>I/we/you/they drive he/she/(it) drives</p>	

- The earth **goes** round the sun.
- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- In Britain most of the shops **close** at 5.30 p.m.

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

- I **work** in a bank. Barry **works** in a shop.

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

do I/we/you/they does he/she/it work?	I/we/you/they don't he/she/it doesn't work
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- Excuse me, **do** you **speak** English?
- '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 Britain.

For questions see also **Unit 49**.

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

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

d Note that we say 'Where **do** you **come** from?' (= Where are you from?):

- Where **do** you **come** from? (*not* 'Where are you coming from?')
- He **comes** from Japan. (*not* 'He is coming from Japan.')

e When you make a *suggestion*, you can say **Why don't you ...?**:

- 'I'm tired.' 'Why **don't** you **go** to bed early?'

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