

Getting started

- 1 The text below is from an interview with Jodie Foster, a Hollywood actress and director. Read the text and answer the questions.

- a) In what ways is Jodie Foster's life **not** like a star's life?
- b) Why does Jodie want to have an ordinary life?

Jodie enjoys living a life around Los Angeles that is as un-starlike as she can make it. She refuses to have a personal assistant, does her own food shopping and takes her own letters to the post office. 'I have always lived like that,' she says, 'and I always will. I don't want to become someone who doesn't know how to do things. If I'm in Calcutta and I need to get to Bombay and a flight gets cancelled so I need to take the train, I want to know how to do that.' She lives in a rented apartment in Hollywood and says that, when she is not working, her favourite thing is to do absolutely nothing!



- 2 Look at these present simple sentences from the text:

She refuses to have a personal assistant, does her own food shopping and takes her own letters to the post office.

I don't want to become someone who doesn't know how to do things.

She lives in a rented apartment in Hollywood ...

How much do you know about the present simple? Underline the correct choice, i) or ii), below:

- a) The present simple is used to talk about things that are:
 i) generally true ii) happening now
- b) It is used to say how often something happens, with words like:
 i) *for* and *since* ii) *always*, *sometimes* and *never*
- c) It is made like this:
 i) *I / you / we / they take* ii) *I / you / we / they takes*
 she / he / it takes *she / he / it take*
- d) Negatives and questions are made with:
 i) *do* and *does* ii) *did*

Looking at language

The present simple

Use

We use the present simple to talk about things and situations that are generally true:

Digital cameras cost a lot of money. They **have** very complex parts and they use a lot of battery power.

She's 27 years old and she **has** a small flat.

The general truth can be:

- a repeated action: She **takes** the train to work, but I usually **drive**.
- a permanent situation: She **lives** in a small flat in London.

The present simple can also be used in informal stories. For example, describing a film scene or telling a joke:

She **walks** into the room, and **sees** the bottle and two glasses on the table, so she **knows** ...

This man **goes** into a bar, and **orders** an orange juice and a packet of crisps ...

1 Fill in the gaps in this text by another Hollywood actress with verbs in the present simple.

Life is pretty busy at the moment. I 1 a 14-hour day, but I'm lucky because we're filming in the Santa Monica mountains, 15 minutes from home. I'm usually up at 4 a.m. My husband 2 up then, too – he 3 to work before the phone starts ringing – and, after a coffee, I 4 to Agoure to arrive at exactly 5.42. It's a wonderful drive – I see mountain lions, coyotes and sometimes snakes. My day 5 with hair and make-up. Then it's straight into filming.

(from *Radio Times*, 9–15 November 1996)

Form

Positive statements	Negative statements	Wh- questions
I / you / we / they play she / he / it plays	I do not (don't) play she does not (doesn't) play	Where do you play ? Where does she play ?
Yes / No questions	Positive short answers	Negative short answers
Do you play ? Does she play ?	Yes, I do . Yes, she does .	No, I don't . No, she doesn't .

Spelling

Other spellings of the third person singular are:

- in verbs which end in *sh, ch, ss, x*, an *es* is added: *washes, watches, kisses, fixes*. This is pronounced /ɪz/.
- in verbs which end in a consonant + *y*, the *y* is changed to an *i* and *es* is added: *try – tries, carry – carries*.

Other points

- We can say how often something happens with adverbs of frequency like (nearly) always, usually, (quite) often, sometimes, (almost) never:
She nearly always takes the train to work.
I don't often go shopping.
 - Note the present simple form of to be: I am, you / we / they are, she / he / it is.
 - Note the third person singular forms: have – has, do – does, go – goes.
 - We often use you + present simple to mean 'everyone':
You need two photos to get a passport.
 - We use the present simple question What do you do? to mean 'What's your job?'
- See Unit 3 for a comparison of the present simple and the present continuous.

Getting it right

▷ Exercise 1 Subjects and verbs

In the advertisements below, fill in the gaps with the correct pronoun from the box. The form of the present simple verb (e.g. doesn't have or don't have) will help you.

he it you I she they

Microwave-heated body/bed warmer

This special warmer gives you all the same warmth as a traditional hot-water bottle but!.... doesn't have the problem of dangerous hot water.

1 just put it in the microwave to heat up, and 2 stays hot for hours.

'3 always use mine on cold nights. It's so easy to use!'

This electronic dictionary contains over 100,000 words.

4 just needs two small batteries to run for hours and hours. Ordinary dictionaries are large, and for many people 5 are inconvenient to carry around, but this electronic dictionary fits easily into your pocket or bag, so 6 can take it wherever you go.

'7 never go anywhere without my electronic dictionary. My colleagues often want to borrow it, and my daughter uses it too – 8 checks her homework with it.'

DIETING SUCCESS

*Does your weight depress you?
Do you hate dieting?*

Dr Dawes's video course can help. On this new video Dr Dawes explains how to eat healthily. In six easy steps, 9 shows you how to change your eating habits. 'I'm much slimmer now, and 10 thank Dr Dawes for that.'

Extension

Write a similar advertisement for something you have bought recently.

► Exercise 2 Asking questions

Linda Magee, a television news reporter, was interviewed about her day. Use the underlined sections of the article to write the interviewer's questions.

I get up around 7.00, some time before my husband, Alan. **1** He's a photographer, so he can often choose the time of day that he wants to work. I don't have breakfast, **2** because I eat a lot of snacks in the studio, but I get breakfast for the kids before I leave the house. **3** They usually have fruit and cereal or toast. **4** I generally walk or cycle to work unless the weather's bad, and **5** it takes about half an hour on foot and about ten minutes by bike. When I arrive, **6** I discuss the day's main stories with the news editor over a cup of coffee. We usually prepare the midday news after that, but sometimes new stories come in and we have to start again. At 11.00 Sandy, **7** the hair and make-up assistant, gets me ready for the camera. **8** Just before the broadcast I often feel nervous, even after all these years! **9** The programme starts at exactly 12.00 and **10** lasts 20 minutes. Then it's back to the news editor to do the whole thing again in time for the 4.00 broadcast.

Example: *What time do you get up?.....*

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 10 |

► Exercise 3 Learning from learners

Look at this extract from a learner's letter to a penfriend. There are 11 mistakes in it. Find them and correct them. The first one has been done for you.

Dear Akram,
Thank you for your very interesting letter. I ^{am} very pleased to be your penfriend. Are you really have a swimming pool in the garden? It sound wonderful. As you know from my advertisement, I have 17 years old and came from Cartagena in Chile. I've got two sisters, Maria and Fernanda, and they is both older than me. My father own a small paper factory, but my mother don't work. We living in a house just outside the city. I enjoying playing football and I am like science-fiction films.

▷ Exercise 4 Written practice

Write a description of the world's largest shopping centre using the information below and the verbs in the box in the order given.

West Edmonton Mall, Alberta, Canada

5.2 million square feet.

800 shops, 110 restaurants (25,000 meals a day).

20,000 staff.

20 million visitors per year.

Visitors' spending: \$16 million per day.

A 30-minute drive from the city centre.

26 cinemas but no theatre.

Open 08.00–24.00.

(adapted from an article by Michael Booth, *The Independent on Sunday*, 19 January 1997)

~~cover~~ ~~have~~ serve employ attract spend be have not have open close

West Edmonton Mall covers 5.2 million square feet and has 800 different shops. Its 110 restaurants

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Classwork

1 Work in groups of three or four. Learner 1 thinks of a job.

2 Learners 2, 3 and 4 ask him / her questions in the present simple to find out what the job is. They can only ask ten questions. Learner 1 can only answer Yes, No or Sometimes.

Example:

Do you get up early?

Yes, I do.

Do you wear a uniform?

Yes, I do.

Does this job need a lot of qualifications?

No, it doesn't.

Do you work inside?

No, I don't.

Is the job very well-paid?

No, it isn't.

Are you a postman?

Yes, I am.