

Activity Type

Grammar Exercises: reforming words, identifying, binary choice, writing and rewriting sentences, gap-fill

Focus

Present simple

Subject-verb agreement

Third-person singular verb forms

Adverbs of frequency and frequency expressions

Aim

To identify the rules and verb forms associated with the present simple tense.

Preparation

Make one copy of the three-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

45 minutes

Introduction

In this present simple worksheet, students learn and identify the rules and verb forms associated with the present simple tense.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the three-page worksheet.

First, students add third-person singular verb endings to verbs (-s, -es or -ies).

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. teaches | 7. dances | 13. stops |
| 2. flies | 8. goes | 14. worries |
| 3. runs | 9. buzzes | 15. finishes |
| 4. pushes | 10. watches | 16. has |
| 5. fixes | 11. sits | |
| 6. does | 12. guesses | |

Students then use the answers to complete spelling rules for third-person singular verb forms.

Next, students underline the correct verb forms in a set of present simple sentences and write what they understand about subject-verb agreement in the present simple.

Exercise B - Answer key

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| 1. goes | 5. eat | 9. barks |
| 2. eat | 6. watches | 10. listen |
| 3. does | 7. finishes | 11. go |
| 4. play | 8. sweeps | 12. live |

After that, students do a gap-fill exercise where they complete present simple affirmative and negative sentences with verbs in brackets. Students then write the rules for negative verb forms in the present simple.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. don't fly, swim | 9. am, am not |
| 2. wash, don't put | 10. starts, doesn't start |
| 3. don't clean, eat | 11. doesn't play, plays |
| 4. tries, doesn't behave | 12. brushes, goes |
| 5. doesn't rise, rises | 13. don't catch, catch |
| 6. doesn't have, has | 14. doesn't sit, goes |
| 7. doesn't like, likes | 15. don't do, do |
| 8. isn't, is | |

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

Next, students rewrite sentences, adding adverbs of frequency and frequency expressions in the correct position.

Finally, students complete sentences, explaining the correct position of frequency adverbs and expressions in a sentence.

Exercise D - Possible answers

1. We are often at home on Sunday.
2. I'm usually not busy on Monday.
3. The cleaner works here five days a week.
4. My parents visit me once a month.
5. They are always happy to have guests.
6. We sometimes have bacon for breakfast.
7. Birds build their nests on this roof every summer.
8. They always come to class on time.
9. Sally is never late for school.
10. Mike sometimes has lunch before one o'clock.

For third-person singular verb forms in the present simple, we add -s, -es or -ies at the end of the verb.

A. Add third-person singular verb endings to the verbs (-s, -es or -ies).

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. teach | 9. buzz |
| 2. fly | 10. watch |
| 3. run | 11. sit |
| 4. push | 12. guess |
| 5. fix | 13. stop |
| 6. do | 14. worry |
| 7. dance | 15. finish |
| 8. go | 16. have |

What are the spelling rules for present simple third-person singular verb forms?

For most verbs, we add

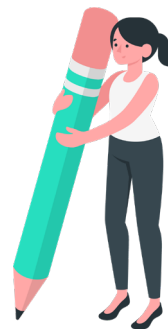
For verbs ending with a consonant and -y, we add

For verbs ending in -s, -z, -ch, -sh, -o, or -x, we add

For the verb *have*, we add

B. Underline the correct present simple verb form in each sentence.

1. My family *go / goes* on holiday in the summer.
2. I often *eat / eats* dinner at my friend's house.
3. Emma *do / does* her homework in the evening.
4. They *play / plays* badminton every afternoon.
5. We *eat / eats* eggs for breakfast.
6. My brother never *watch / watches* television.
7. He never *finish / finishes* his homework on time.
8. Mrs. White *sweep / sweeps* the floor twice a week.
9. My dog *bark / barks* at night.
10. You *listen / listens* to the radio every morning.
11. Becky and Liz *go / goes* to the swimming pool every week.
12. My parents *live / lives* in Paris.



From the last exercise, write what you understand about subject-verb agreement in the present simple.

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.....

C. Complete the present simple affirmative and negative sentences with the verbs in brackets.

1. Fish (not fly). They (swim).
2. I (wash) the dishes, but I (not put) them away.
3. They (not clean) the kitchen before they (eat) dinner.
4. Neil (try) to be a good boy, but he (not behave) well.
5. The sun (not rise) in the west. It (rise) in the east.
6. A spider (not have) wings. A bird (have) wings.
7. Sarah (not like) swimming. She (like) to play tennis.
8. He (not be) American. He (be) Canadian.
9. I (be) a student. I (not be) a teacher.
10. Class (start) at 9 o'clock. It (not start) at 8 o'clock.
11. Tom (not play) football. He (play) computer games.
12. Sarah (brush) her hair every morning before she (go) to school.
13. I (not catch) a cold in the summer, but I often (catch) a cold in the winter.
14. Natalie (not sit) in the sun. She never (go) to the beach.
15. They (not do) their homework together. They (do) it alone.

What are the rules for negative verb forms in the present simple?

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Adverbs of frequency are often used with the present simple because they indicate repeated or routine actions or events.

D. Rewrite the following present simple sentences, adding the adverb of frequency or frequency expression in the correct position.

1. We are at home on Sunday. (often)

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2. I'm not busy on Monday. (usually)

.....

3. The cleaner works here. (five days a week)

.....

4. My parents visit me. (once a month)

.....

5. They are happy to have guests. (always)

.....

6. We have bacon for breakfast. (sometimes)

.....

7. Birds build their nests on this roof. (every summer)

.....

8. They come to class on time. (always)

.....

9. Sally is late for school. (never)

.....

10. Mike has lunch before one o'clock. (sometimes)

.....

Where do we place adverbs of frequency in a sentence?

Sentences with the verb *to be*:

Sentences with one main verb:

Negative sentences:

Frequency expressions: