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## Present simple (I do)

Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep. 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:

We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

Nurses look after patients in hospitals. I usually go away at weekends. The earth goes round the sun. The cafe opens at 7.30 in the morning.

We say: I work but he works you go but it goes they teach but my sister teaches I have but he has

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

I come from Canada. Where do you come from? I don't go away very often. What does this word mean? (not What means this word?) Rice doesn't grow in cold climates. In the following examples,  $\underline{do}$  is also the main verb (do you do / doesn't do etc.):

'What do you do?' 'I work in a shop.' He's always so lazy. He doesn't do anything to help.

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

I get up at 8 o'clock every morning. How often do you go to the dentist? Julie doesn't drink tea very often. Robert usually goes away two or three times a year.

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 ... ': I promise I won't be late. (not I'm promising) 'What do you suggest I do?' 'I suggest that you ...'

## Exercises

Put the verb into the correct form. 1 Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often. 2 What time (the banks / close) here? 3 I have a car, but I (not / use) it much. 4 Where (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish? (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.' 5 'What 6 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)? 7 David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport. 8 It (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long (it / take) you?