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**GRAMMAR PRACTICE FOR  
APPLIED MODERN LANGUAGES**



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# 1. The Simple Present Tense

## *A Short Theoretical Overview*

### **I Forms:**

1. Affirmative: S + Vb.1 / I read.
2. Interrogative: Do + S + Vb.1 / Do you read?
3. Negative: S + do + not + Vb.1 / I do not (don't) read.
4. Interrogative-negative: Do + S not + Vb.1 / Do you not read?  
(Don't you read?)

**N.B.:** for the third person singular verbs in the affirmative receive the inflexional morpheme **-s**. In this case, the form of the auxiliary is **DOES**.

- e.g.: He/she reads.  
Does he/she read?  
He/she does not (doesn't) read.

### **II Spelling Rules for third person singular verbs in the affirmative:**

1. verbs ending in -o / -ss / -ch / -sh / -x receive -es:  
e.g.: *go – goes; kiss – kisses, watch – watches, finish – finishes, mix – mixes*
2. verbs ending in -y preceded by a consonant change final -y into -i and add -es:  
e.g.: *study – studies, copy – copies, try – tries, carry – carries*  
**NB:** if final -y is preceded by a vowel, it stays unchanged:  
e.g.: *play – plays, enjoy – enjoys*

### III Uses:

1. *Generic Present Tense*: general truths (laws, definitions, proverbs, scientific statements, etc); adverb: *always*

- e.g.: Nothing is as easy as it looks.  
A symphony has four movements.  
He who laughs last, laughs best.  
London stands on the Thames.  
Hot air rises.

2. *Habitual Present Tense*: a situation is repeated with a given frequency during an interval:

- e.g.: They usually take sugar in coffee.  
He never goes away at the weekend.

*Adverbs*: ever, never, usually, sometimes, seldom, rarely, most days, every day / week / month / year, etc

3. *Instantaneous Present Tense* – the event referred to is assumed to be simultaneous with the moment of speaking. It is used in sports commentaries and scientific demonstrations.

- e.g.: He passes the ball to Williams. Williams shoots. It's a goal!

### **Grammar Practice**

#### **I Complete the sentence with the affirmative form of the verb in brackets:**

1. I (drive) ....., but my sister (cycle) .....
2. The Sun (rise) ..... in the east and (set) ..... in the west.
3. The Prime Minister (travel) .....abroad in his own private aeroplane.
4. It (cost) ..... \$20 million to be a space tourist for one week in the International Space Station.

5. The European Commission (meet) ..... in Brussels.
6. My dad (read) ..... two books every week.
7. I (understand) ..... geography more than science.
8. My favourite TV programme (start) ..... at half past ten.
9. The teachers at our school (give) ..... us lots of homework.
10. We (like) ..... swimming because it's fun and good exercise.

**II Complete the sentence with the negative form of the verb in brackets:**

1. You (do) ..... any of the cooking!
2. My brother (play) ..... tennis because he (like) .....it.
3. I (think) ..... that's a good idea.
4. Teachers (work) ..... at weekends.
5. The government (agree) ..... with the new EU laws.
6. We (want) ..... to see that film because it looks boring.
7. His mum (drive) ..... a fast car.
8. Those new mp3 players (be) ..... very expensive.
9. These birds (stay) ..... in the country during winter.
10. He (sing) ..... very well, does he?

**III Complete the sentence with the affirmative or negative form of the verb in brackets:**

1. The plane (leave) ..... in half an hour but Nick (not / be) ..... at the airport yet.
2. My best friend (love) ..... science fiction films but they (not / interest) ..... me.

3. I (not / study) ..... chemistry because it (be) difficult.
4. I (not / dance) ..... because I (look) ..... stupid.
5. The Sun (not / go) ..... round the Earth, The Earth (go) ..... round the Sun!
6. My new computer (do) ..... lots more things than my old one, and it (not / crash) .....
7. My dad (not / have) ..... any qualifications but he (have) .....  
a really good job.
8. Fire (need) ..... oxygen to burn. It (not / burn) ..... without oxygen.
9. My teacher (not / own) ..... a mobile phone because some people think they (be) ..... bad for your health.
10. According to scientists, animals (live) ..... longer if they (not / eat) ..... too much.

**IV Write questions to the following statements:**

1. The Jacksons usually have breakfast at 7 a.m. // What time ...?  
.....
2. She visits her old mother at least twice a week. // How often...?  
.....
3. They live together because she loves him. // Why...?  
.....
4. He sells computers and hi-fi equipment. // What...?  
.....
5. We normally spend our weekends in the country. // Where...?  
.....
6. He earns his living by painting people's houses. // How...?  
.....

7. We want to settle down in Brazil. // Where...?  
.....
8. His sister washes his shirts. // Who...?  
.....
9. This bottle contains poison. // What...?  
.....
10. It smells horrible. // How...?  
.....
11. The beach is about half a mile from here. // How far...?  
.....
12. Gasoline costs \$1,50 in this country. // How much...?  
.....
13. It takes three hours to get there by plane. // How long...?  
.....
14. She works here because she lives nearby. // Why...?  
.....
15. Lawrence Olivier plays Hamlet in that film. // Who...?  
.....
16. The weather is usually wet in this part of the country. // What...?  
.....
17. It's the tallest of them that plays basketball. // Which one...?  
.....
18. More than twenty families live in this house. // How many...?  
.....
19. It's the maid's responsibility to keep the room clean. // Whose...?  
.....