A SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE: AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE STATEMENTS

AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENTS	
SUBJECT	VERB
I You* We They	**work.**
He She It	**works.**

NEGATIVE STATEMENTS		
SUBJECT	DO NOT/DOES NOT	BASE FORM OF VERB
I You* We They	**do not don't**	**work.**
He She It	**does not doesn't**	**work.**

* *You* is both singular and plural.

Grammar Notes

1. A. Use the simple present tense to tell about things that happen again and again (habits, regular occurrences, customs, and routines).

Most teenagers **wear** large sweatshirts.
Doug **plays** soccer every day.
Americans **eat** turkey on Thanksgiving.
Pete and Elenore **work.**

B. Use the simple present tense to tell facts.

Thanksgiving **comes** on the fourth
    Thursday in November.
This sweatshirt **costs** twenty-five dollars.

C. Use the simple present tense with non-action verbs. (See also page 185 in Unit 7.)

Doug and his mother **are** in the store.
Elenore **knows** the store.
Doug **likes** modern clothes.

2. Use the contractions *doesn't* and *don't* for negative statements in speaking or in informal writing.

Doug **doesn't** wear ties. He wears
    T-shirts.
We **don't** live in Oregon. We live in
    New York.

3. In affirmative statements, use the base form (dictionary form) of the verb for all persons except the third-person singular. Put an *-s* (or *-es*) ending on the third-person singular *(he/she/it)*.

He need**s** a dress shirt. I need a belt.
She want**s** an apple. We want bananas.
He miss**es** me. They miss him.

4. See Appendix 14 on page A19 for spelling rules for the third-person singular in the simple present tense.

See Appendix 14 on page A19 for pronunciation rules for the third-person singular in the simple present tense.

5. Remember: The third-person singular affirmative forms of *have, do,* and *go* are not regular.

He   has   He **has** a new sweatshirt.
She   does   She **does** the taxes.
It   goes   It **goes** in the kitchen.

6. In American English, the negative of *have* is *don't have,* and the negative of *has* is *doesn't have.* In British English, the negative of *have* is *haven't,* and the negative of *has* is *hasn't.*