



Remember to watch the video first! Then read the conversation between Sophie and Niwat, a student she met in Thailand. Sophie is helping Niwat understand the present simple.



**Grammar
Snacks**

We use the present simple to talk about repeated actions or events, permanent states or things which are always true. To find out more about the present simple, read the conversation below.



Can you give me some examples?

Niwat

Yes, of course. We use the present simple to talk about things which are repeated every day, every week, every year, etc.

*I usually **get up** at 7 o'clock.*

*During the week I **have** swimming practice on Mondays, I **do** taekwondo on Tuesdays and tennis on Thursdays.*

*We always **go** on holiday in the summer.*



Sophie

I see. And you use words for explaining more about the time too.



Yes, we often use adverbs of frequency *sometimes, often, usually* or other time expressions like *on Mondays, twice a week* or *in the summer*.

What about permanent states? What does that mean?

Permanent states are situations or feelings which are not temporary.

*I **like** him a lot.*

*Sophie **works** as a travel writer.*

*They **live** in London.*

We also use the present simple for general facts, for example when talking about science or geography.

*Thailand **is** really hot at this time of year.*

*Snakes **live** on the ground, in trees and in water.*





So what do I need to know about forming the present simple?

The main thing is that the third person singular forms end in -s or -es. That's for *he, she* or *it*.

*He **watches** black and white films at his cinema club on Wednesdays.*
*He **thinks** chess is a sport!*



OK, and the other forms don't end in -s or -es?
I watch TV a lot. We think Coldplay are boring.



Correct!



What about questions and negatives?

For most verbs we use the present simple of the verb *do/does* + *subject* + *infinitive without to* to form questions.

***Do** you **see** him on Wednesdays then?*
***Does** Jack **like** sports?*

For negatives we use the *subject* + *do/does* + *not* + *infinitive without to*.

*Daisy and Jack **don't go out** together much at the weekend.*
*I **don't think** Coldplay are boring.*



To go back to the idea of permanent and temporary things, what about this sentence: *Is your mum in Thailand this week?* Isn't that temporary?

Yes, it is. That's a very good point. Normally we use the present simple for permanent states, and the present continuous for temporary states, but some verbs are thought of as State Verbs and they are not usually used in the continuous form.



And the verb *to be* is one of those verbs?



Exactly! So even though staying in Thailand is temporary, we use the present simple with the verb *to be*. Here's another example:

How's Daisy? Is she with you?



But that isn't the question form you just told me about! Where's the *do*?



Ah, no. I said 'for most verbs we use *do* in questions'. The verb *to be* is different and so are modal verbs like *can*. We'll look at the verb *to be* separately because it's different and very common.



What are the other state verbs?

We'll look at those when we look at the Present Continuous. Any more questions?

Yes, what about: *The train leaves at 5 in the morning?* Isn't that talking about an event in the future?



Yes, it is, but it's also a repeated event. This is sometimes called the 'timetable future'.



OK, I have a maths class in a minute, so I have to go.

Good use of the 'timetable future'!

Watch the video on our website!

