

English A2 · Present simple

Elementary English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

A house you already own

You met the present simple in A1. A2 adds two new rooms: printed futures and the verbs that refuse to move.

The forms in one minute

	I / you / we / they	he / she / it
statement	work	works
negative	don't work	doesn't work
question	Do you work?	Does she work?

Use the evidence

Spelling dances: watch → watches, study → studies, go → goes; the rebel: have → has.

The printed future

Facts and habits

Water boils at 100 degrees. Pandas eat bamboo.

I play football on Sundays.

Timetables — the printed future

The train leaves at nine.

The film starts at seven thirty.

Your turn: fact or plan

Your turn

Which sentence correctly uses the present simple for the future?

- A. I leave for Beijing tomorrow.
- B. The train leaves at nine tomorrow.
- C. We eat pizza tonight, probably.
- D. My homework finishes itself tonight.

The verbs that don't move

States, not actions

know · believe · understand · like · love · hate · want · need · prefer · mean

I know the answer. She wants coffee.

One verb, two costumes

think as a state

I think it's a good idea.

= my opinion; the verb stays still.

think as an action

I'm thinking about the weekend.

= my brain is working; the verb moves.

Your turn: state or action

Your turn

Which sentence is correct?

- A. I am knowing the answer.
- B. I know the answer.
- C. I am know the answer.
- D. I knowing the answer.

The traps, revisited

The trap

→ He like cats.

I am understanding.

I leave for Beijing tomorrow. (a plan)

Does she likes tea?

The fix

He likes cats — the ego letter, every time.

I understand — statives don't move.

I'm leaving tomorrow. — plans are not timetables.

Does she like tea? — one -s, already eaten.

Say it aloud

Timetable your morning: The
school bus leaves at seven twenty.



Add the human comedy: I leave my bed at seven nineteen.



Stack the statives: I like music, I love
weekends, I want a longer holiday.



Finish with belief: I believe the weekend is too short.

Check yourself

- The film starts at eight — a printed schedule reports the future.
- I don't understand the question — statives take no -ing.
- She watches TV on Fridays — third person, -ch dance.
- Water boils at 100 degrees — eternal truths take the present simple.