

Lesson #1

WORK & SOCIAL LIFE

Practicing present tense (regular verbs)



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College Student:

Hi! I'm Steve. As a freshman in college, I **take** many different classes. I **major** in English. My roommate **comes** from Boston, and we **like** our room in the dorm. He **is** a nice guy. We **spend** a lot of time studying, but we **enjoy** going out! Our friends **live** nearby in a big house. They **organize** a lot of parties. Life in college **is** fun!

Journalist:

Hello! My name **is** Julie. I **am** a journalist. At work, I **write** stories for the newspaper. I **interview** celebrities and important people. I **ask** them questions relevant to the news. I **research** topics like the environment, politics, and culture. I **work** with a colleague named Anne. She **takes** pictures for the newspaper. She **is** the photographer on the team. We often **travel** together and **report** about many different topics.

Artist:

Good afternoon! My name **is** Claudia and I **am** an artist. I **paint**, I **draw**, and sometimes I **sculpt**. I **give** art classes to high school students. They **love** to practice their talents, and they **draw** very well. One student **adores** real-life portraits and **asks** to sketch his friends often. As a teacher, I **support** them and **encourage** them to do their best.

Doctor:

Greetings, my name **is** Walter Skipper. My patients **call** me "Doctor Skipper." I **see** patients in my office, and I **give** them medication when they **need** it. With a stethoscope, I **listen** to their lungs and I **check** their heart. Sometimes, I **visit** the hospital where my wife **works** (she **is** a nurse). People **say** we **make** a good team!



NEW VOCABULARY

Verbs

To enjoy: to like
To major in: to specialize in a subject at school
To need: to necessitate
To report: to talk / write about a specific topic
To sculpt: to create a shape with material (wood, metal, etc.)
To sketch: to draw quickly with a pencil
To spend: to use

Expressions

Hi: informal salutation
Hello: standard salutation
Greetings: formal salutation

Nouns

Dorm(itory): housing for students
Freshman: first-year student
Roommate: someone with whom you live
Stethoscope: tool used by the doctor to hear inside the body
Topic: a subject

Prepositions

About: shows the focus
From: shows the origin
Many: several, a lot of
With: shows the aid

Adjectives

Real-life: image of the living
Relevant: interesting, important

Adverbs

Best: top, ultimate
Often: many times
Together: with a person or a group

Understanding the Text

A. True or false?

- 1) Steve hates his roommate. (False, Steve likes his roommate.)
- 2) Anne takes pictures. (False, the photographer takes pictures.)
- 3) Claudia paints pictures. (True)
- 4) Dr. Skipper works as a nurse. (False, Dr. Skipper's wife is a nurse.)

B. Open-ended questions

- 1) Where does Steve study? (He studies in college)
- 2) Does the work of Julie seem boring? (No, she travels and does many things)
- 3) Do you think Claudia enjoys her teaching job? (Yes, she likes her students)
- 4) Does Walter take his work seriously? (Yes, he is very engaged in his work)



LESSON

What is the present tense?

A tense is a specific form of a verb that shows WHEN the action implied by the verb takes place. There are two tenses in English: the PRESENT and the PAST (note: WILL, which denotes the FUTURE, is not a tense by a MODAL). When a verb is at the present tense, it shows that the action implied by the verb is a) taking place NOW or b) is a valid and eternal truth.

Examples: I work today.
The United States of America believes in free speech.

In English, conjugating regular verbs at the PRESENT tense is very easy. You associate the subject (I, you, we, you, they) and the verb (love, make, work, etc.) without making any change to the verb. Only the subjects he and she add an extra 's' to the verb.

Examples: I work today. We work today.
 You work today. (singular) You work today. (plural)
 He/she works today. They work today.

Exercises

Choose the right verb

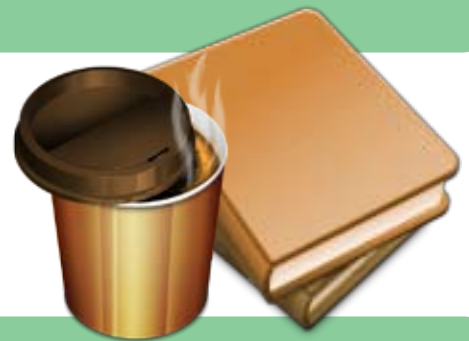
- 1) You need a taxi.
- 2) I love my parents.
- 3) She makes dinner.
- 4) They play football.

Build a sentence

- 1) You like watching TV.
- 2) She reads books for pleasure.
- 3) I write in my journal.
- 4) He listens to reggae music.

What about you now?

Write a paragraph about yourself.
Interview your classmate and present to the class what he or she does.



Wind-down

- 1) What differences do you see between the American school system and yours?
- 2) Are there cultural differences between the traditional American social life and yours?
- 3) What do you think of the American work ethic?

