

Lesson #9

# *Irregular verbs: present tense*

*Lesson Plan by Catherine Schell & Dr. Gérard Beck*



## Irregular verbs: present tense

*The goals of this week's Classroom lesson (#10) are to learn more about the present tense of irregular verbs. In this lesson, you will learn how to recognize and use the present tense of verbs like 'do' or 'go' in order to further extend your knowledge of verb conjugation in English. You will be able to master irregular verbs through the following texts, grammatical explanations, and exercises within VOA's The Classroom.*

### WARM-UP:

**Do you know the chorus of the song Ob-la-di, ob-la-da by the Beatles?**

Ob-la-di, ob-la-da, life **goes** on, bra!

Lala, how the life **goes** on

Ob-la-di, ob-la-da, life **goes** on, bra!

Lala, how the life **goes** on

**- What is the infinitive of the verb in color?**

go

**- Can you give the meaning of the phrase 'life goes on'?**

Life continues

**Do you know some English proverbs or sayings?**

The early bird **catches** the worm.

But the second mouse gets the cheese

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade

**Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.**

**-What are the infinitives of the verbs in color?**

catch, get, give, happen



# Irregular verbs: present tense

## TEXTS

Read this conversation between a journalist named Julie and her boss Anne:

- Julie Hi Anne! How are you? I'm wondering: do you have a copy of the special article on Valentine's Day? My colleague John can't find it, but he says you may have it.
- Anne Yes, I have it here in this stack of papers. (She rummages through some papers) There you go, here it is. I'm sure John does have a copy though. I sent it to him yesterday.
- Julie Thank you so much. Oh, I like the picture that goes with the article. And the title is quite ironic.
- Anne You are right, that's a great photo. By the way, tell John he should stop my office today or next week. I want to talk to him before he leaves for D.C.
- Julie Ok, I will tell him. He's going to Washington D.C. to cover the Peace Corps conference, isn't he?
- Anne He is. He will interview a few people there, especially a professor who teaches at Georgetown University.
- Julie This conference sounds really good! I wish I could go! He's really lucky.
- Anne Don't worry, I have something very interesting for you to do as well. I would like you to go interview a scientist at the National Observatory, who claims they found new evidence for potential of life in the universe. He researches full-time at the Observatory and publishes widely in refereed journals.
- Julie Excellent news! John and I can maybe catch the same plane and go together. He usually catches the red-eye flight when he travels. It is very convenient and I may do the same.
- Anne Sounds good. You guys arrange something convenient for both of you, and come back with material for some feature pieces. I have to attend a meeting so I will see you later.

NEW VOCABULARY		
<b>Verbs</b> To catch: to take To claim: to assert To cover: to attend To rummage: to search To wonder: to question	<b>Nouns</b> ———a red-eye: An air-plane flight that departs late at night Stack: a pile	<b>Adjectives</b> Catchy: appealing Refereed: select Relevant: interesting, important
<b>Expressions</b> There you go: shows logical consequence or physical gesture (here, giving the article)	<b>Prepositions</b> Through: shows the depth	<b>Adverbs</b> By the way: on a sidenote Full-time: permanently Indeed: certainly Though: however



## Work on the Text

**1) List all the verbs that are conjugated in the present tense.**

*are, have, says, have, rummages, go, is, am, does, like, goes, is, goes, needs, want, leaves, is, teaches, sounds, wish, is, have, claims, researches, publishes, catches, travels, is, sounds, arrange, come, have*

**2) Which verbs have a different form at the 3rd person singular in the present tense?**

*be, have, go, do, teach, research, publish, catch*

**3) What does Julie need at the beginning of the conversation?**

*She needs the copy of an article on Valentine's Day.*

**4) What is Julie going to do in D.C.?**

*She is going to interview a scientist who works at the National Observatory*

## LESSON

Irregular verbs: present tense

There are many irregular verbs in English, which we will see later when we study the past tense. Some of the irregular verbs have specific forms in the present tense; HAVE, BE, DO and GO are a few examples.

Here is a chart of the conjugation of these verbs at the present tense:

	Have	Be	Do	Go
I	have	<b>am</b>	do	go
You	have	are	do	go
He / she / it	has	is	does	goes
We	have	are	do	go
You	have	are	do	go
They	have	are	do	go



## LESSON (cont.)

Verbs ending in -ch, -tch, -ss, -zz, -o , such as 'catch', follow the 'do' and 'go' patterns of conjugation and take -es for the 3rd person singular (he/she/it) while taking -s for all other persons.

**Examples:** I catch / she catches  
You pitch / he pitches  
I kiss / she kisses  
You buzz / he buzzes  
They veto / he vetoes

Remember that when you use the negation HAVE, BE and DO have specific forms when used in spoken and / or informal English:

**Examples:** I have -> I **haven't** ; he has -> he **hasn't**  
He is -> he **isn't** ; you are -> you **aren't**  
I do -> I **don't** ; he does -> he **doesn't**

Additionally, DO is often used to ask questions:

**Examples:** **Do** you go to school here?  
What **do** you study?  
Where **does** she go to school?

DO, HAVE and BE are also used in question tags and answers:

**Examples:** Do you go to school here? Yes I **do**.  
Does your university have a soccer team? No, it **doesn't**.  
Have you got the time to help me? Yes I **have**.  
Are they going to the movies tonight? Yes they **are**.



## Exercises

### 1. Circle the correct answer:

- She **clutches** her bag and walks fast.
- He **kisses** his parents goodbye and *drives / drive* away in his car.
- You **do** your homework every night.
- The pill **fizzes** when it *dissolve / dissolves* into the water.
- He **undergoes** a delicate operation today.

### 2. Fill in the blanks and conjugate the verbs in the present tense:

(Commentary at a basketball game)

Welcome to tonight's game! The players **are** on the court, and ready to play! The referee **throws** the ball in the air, and the game is started. Detroit's #12 **passes** the ball to #9, who **dribbles** two players of the defense. He **waits**, **feints** and **shoots**! Oh, the ball **bounces** off the rim, and the defense **catches** the rebound. Now it **is** their turn. They quickly **pass** the ball between each other. #23 **throws** the ball to # 7, who **jumps** and **dunks** the ball in the net! 2-0 for Memphis!

### 3. Answer the questions using the proper form of DO:

- Do you go shopping today? *No, we **don't**.*
- Does he major in physics? *No, he **doesn't**.*
- Do they like fast-food? *Yes, they **do**.*
- Does she want to come with us to the movies? *Yes, she **does**.*
- Do you want to bring wine to the party? *Yes, I **do**.*

### 4. Imagine a dialogue or a conversation between friends using the following scenarios. Use regular and irregular verbs in the present tense as much as possible.

- You and some friends want to organize an evening out. Check everyone's agendas and plan something accordingly.
- You meet a friend by chance and strike a conversation to catch up on what you and he/she have been up to and are doing these days.
- Debate who your favorite actor / politician / singer / etc is with a friend, and try to explain them the reasons for your choice.



## Wind-down

### Wind-down

This link from VOA Student Union Blog proposes a text on cross-cultural differences and adaptation to new customs and habit. A lot of it is in the present tense and today's lesson will help you better understand the mechanisms of conjugation in English:

<http://blogs.voanews.com/student-union/2011/01/28/whos-nicer-americans-or-chinese/#more-2136>

Text: Dr. Gérard Beck

Images: IconArchive.com, Iconfinder.com

Wind-down text: VOA Student Union Blog



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