English grammar help for learners of English.
The English present simple tense 1 (guided discovery exercise).

Use the following words to fill the spaces below. Write one answer for each space.

present continuous | after | present continuous | at the beginning | present simple | frequency adverbs | itineraries | true | in front of | habitual actions

Present simple tense is used to talk about (1.)
Examples:
- I work on Saturday mornings.
- All the shops close over the weekend.

Present simple can also talk about things that are always eg. (2.)
Examples:
- The moon goes round the Earth.
- Water freezes at 0º centigrade.

Present simple is often used to talk about (3.) in the future.
Examples:
- My plane leaves at 6.00 tomorrow morning.
- The London train arrives at 10.00 this evening.
- Next Tuesday the Queen visits the White House.

(4.) (always, never etc.) are placed (5.) the main verb in present simple.
Examples:
- I never go there.
- They hardly ever do any exercise.
- Maria occasionally leaves early.

But the frequency adverb is placed immediately (6.) the verb 'to be' and auxiliary verbs.
Examples:
- He is always hungry.
- He can never be quiet.

'Sometimes', 'occasionally' may also be placed (7.) of the sentence.
Examples:
- Sometimes spring arrives earlier.
- Occasionally there are showers.

There are some verbs that nearly always take the present simple form. These verbs are not usually used in the (8.) form.
Examples:
- I don't understand a thing (that you’re saying now).
- I really like this pizza (you’re eating it now).

We usually use (9.) to talk about an action which is happening now, and not (10.). Examples:

- Hey, you! What are you doing now?
- I’m not doing anything at the moment.
Re-write the sentences below.

Write these sentences in the third person singular:

a) They catch the train every day at 6.00pm. (He...)
   ( ).

b) The letters arrive every morning by post. (The letter...)
   ( ).

c) Volunteers in Africa do wonderful things to help the local populations. (The volunteer...)
   ( ).

d) Planes fly weekly between Madrid and Moscow. (The plane...)
   ( ).

Write these sentences in the question form (start each question with “Do” or “Does”):

e) Nick and Emma rarely watch television at the weekend.
   ( ).

f) Steve goes shopping with his wife on Friday evenings.
   ( ).

g) The computer breaks down very frequently.
   ( ).

h) The English fry their food in margarine.
   ( ).

Write these sentences in the negative form:

i) Mary’s baby cries all day.
   ( ).

j) The Spanish love going to see bullfights.
   ( ).

k) Sally washes her motorbike during her lunch hour.
   ( ).

l) People in this country like eating out in bars and restaurants.
   ( )

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Student’s sheet


**English grammar help for learners of English.**

**The present simple tense (answers to exercises 1 and 2).**

**Exercise 1 (answers)**

1. habitual actions.
2. true
3. itineraries
4. Frequency adverbs
5. in front of
6. after
7. at the beginning
8. present continuous
9. present continuous
10. present simple

To follow up on this exercise, it would be a good idea to introduce or revise all frequency adverbs and show their respective positions in a sentence relative to the verb. You could also mention final position too. "We go to bed late sometimes."

You could also mention more verbs that don't usually take present continuous and remain in present simple even when the meaning may be more continuous. Verbs; need, want, have (possession) etc.

**Exercise 2 (answers)**

a) He catches the train every day at 6.00pm.
b) The letter arrives every morning by post.
c) The volunteer in Africa does wonderful things to help the local populations.
d) The plane flies weekly between Madrid and Moscow.
e) Do Nick and Emma rarely watch television at the weekend?
f) Does Steve go shopping with his wife on Friday evenings?
g) Does the computer break down very frequently?
h) Do the English fry their food in margarine?
i) Mary’s baby doesn't cry all day.
j) The Spanish don't love going to see bullfights.
k) Sally doesn't wash her motorbike during her lunch hour.
l) People in this country don't like eating out in bars and restaurants.

Explore other verbs in present simple they know that have irregular endings when in third person singular. You could also do an oral drill of these sentences. Get students to change them to either third person singular, questions or negatives.

**Example:**
Teacher: "Paco, he catches the train every day at 6.00pm. Negative.
Paco: "He doesn't catch the train every day at 6.00pm."