

Present simple

1 You use the present simple:

a to talk about things that are always true:

It **gets** cold in winter here. Water **boils** at 100 degrees.
February **is** the shortest month.

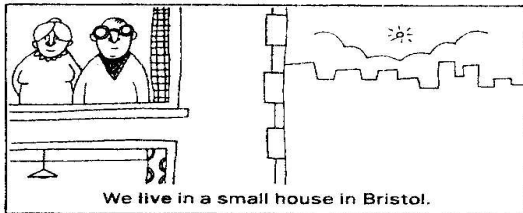
b with words like *never/sometimes/often/always* or time expressions like *every day/at the weekend* to talk about regular and repeated actions, and habits:

We **often go** to the cinema on Fridays.
My parents **never eat** meat. I **get up late** at the weekend.



I read the newspaper every day.

c to talk about general facts about our lives:



We live in a small house in Bristol.



I wear a jacket and tie to work, and jeans when I am at home.

2 The form of the verb changes with *he/she/it*:

I **work** from 9 to 5.
You **work** very hard.
She **works** in the supermarket on Saturday.
He **works** for my father in our office.
We **work** for the new company in the centre of town.
They **work** in uniform.
She **enjoys** English classes. He's a student, he **reads** a lot.



My father sometimes **smokes** a pipe. It **smells** awful!

3 With verbs that end in *-o/-s/ch/sh* the form is *-es*:

He **goes** out every weekend. She **watches** a lot of TV.
The film **finishes** at 9.30 tonight.
He **does** everything for his children.

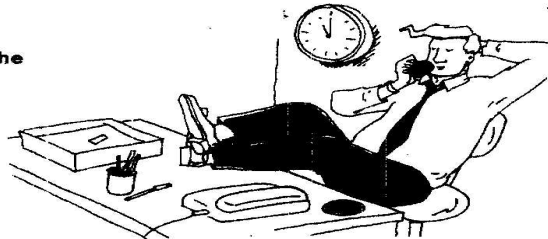
4 With verbs that end in *consonant + y*, the *he/she/it* form is *-ies*:

study – He **studies** languages at university.
fly – The plane **flies** twice a week.

BUT: I **play** – he **plays** I **buy** – she **buys**

Note: have – has:

They **have** everything you want in that shop.
She **has** a house in St James' Square.



He **stops** and **has** a cup of coffee at eleven o'clock.