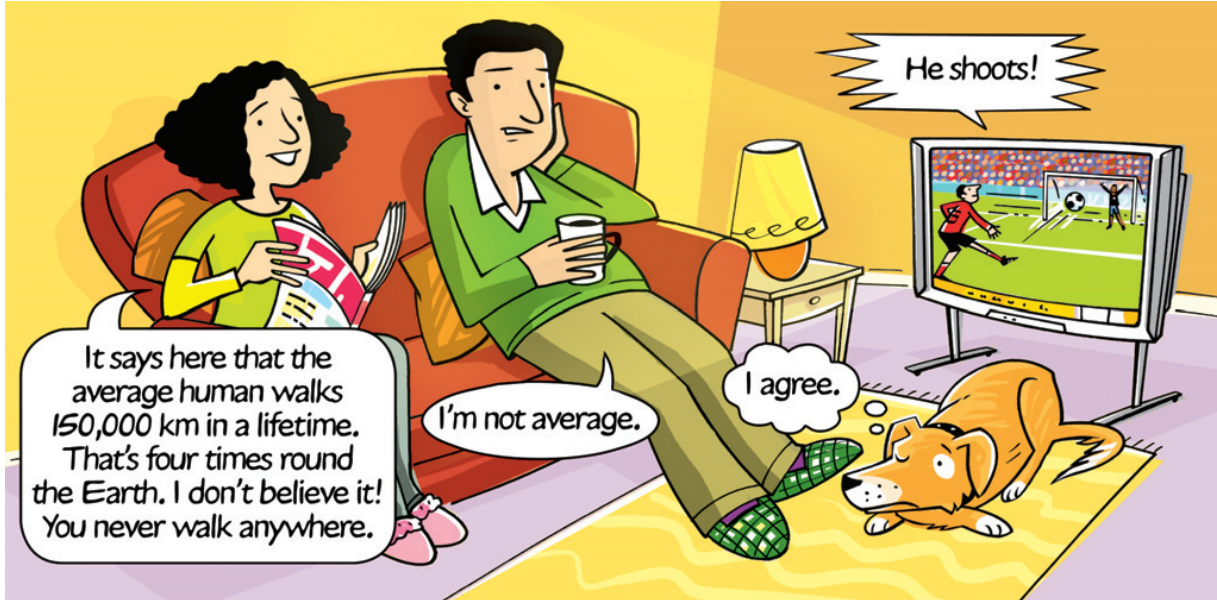


1 Present simple

Adverbs and expressions of frequency



It's a typical Saturday afternoon in the Smith house. Suddenly, Mrs Smith interrupts Mr Smith's favourite pastime ...

Presentation

Common uses

You use the present simple to talk about:

- facts (things that are generally or currently true): *The average human walks over 150,000 km in a lifetime.*
- habits, routines and regularly repeated events: *I walk to work every day. You never walk anywhere.*
- states, thoughts and feelings: *I don't believe it!*

See Unit 3: Stative verbs

Other uses

You often use the present simple:

- with performative verbs (these are verbs which describe the action you are performing, e.g. *apologise, promise, refuse*): *I agree. / I disagree.*
- to tell stories, jokes and anecdotes: *It's a typical Saturday afternoon in the Smith house. Suddenly, Mrs Smith interrupts Mr Smith's favourite pastime ...*
- to describe the plot of a book or film and to review them: *The film begins in a jungle in Borneo. Daniel Craig plays a hunter ...*
- to commentate on sporting or special events: *He runs to the penalty spot and he shoots!*

The President walks to the Queen and the two heads of state meet for the first time.

- to give instructions, demonstrations or directions: *You mix the eggs, milk and butter in a bowl ...*

See page 233: Spelling rules

Adverbs and expressions of frequency

You often use adverbs and expressions of frequency with the present simple: *You never walk anywhere.*

Adverbs of frequency (*always, frequently, normally, often, regularly, occasionally, sometimes, rarely, hardly ever, seldom, never*) normally come before the main verb but after the verb *to be*:

You never walk anywhere. (don't say *You walk never anywhere.*)

I'm often at home on Saturdays. (don't say *I often am at home on Saturdays.*)

Expressions of frequency such as *once a week, every Monday, twice an hour* can come at the beginning or the end of the sentence: *I walk to work once a week. Once a week, I walk to work.*

Exercises

1 Complete the article using the verbs in the box in the present simple.

brush carry eat have love make spend watch

Are you average?

The average human ...

- ★ ¹ makes 1,140 telephone calls every year.
- ★ ² _____ a minimum of two hours of TV every day.
- ★ often ³ _____ more than three dreams a night.
- ★ female ⁴ _____ three kilos of lipstick in her bag over a lifetime.
- ★ ⁵ _____ two weeks of their life waiting for a traffic light to turn green.
- ★ normally ⁶ _____ their teeth with a blue toothbrush.
- ★ ⁷ _____ eight spiders in their lifetime while they're asleep.
- ★ ⁸ _____ reading useless facts!

2 1.02 Read parts of different TV programmes. Write the words in brackets in the present simple. Then listen and check.

Comedy show

There ¹ _____ (be) this man and he ² _____ (go) to his doctor and ³ _____ (ask): 'Doctor, Doctor. Why ⁴ _____ (everyone/call) me a liar?' The doctor ⁵ _____ (look) at him and ⁶ _____ (reply): 'I ⁷ _____ (not/believe) you.'

Sports programme

It ⁸ _____ (not/look) good for the opponents of the two Williams sisters. Surely, it ⁹ _____ (not/be) possible to survive match point against the powerful serve of Venus. She ¹⁰ _____ (study) the ball and then she ¹¹ _____ (serve). It's all over! The two sisters ¹² _____ (celebrate) an easy victory.

Cookery show

¹³ _____ (you/ have) problems with your kitchen knives? Perhaps they ¹⁴ _____ (not/cut) the way you want. Well now you ¹⁵ _____ (not/need) to worry. The new 'Goliath' ¹⁶ _____ (slice) through any type of meat every time.

3 Write the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 I long once holiday take a a year.</p> <p>2 late you are always why??</p> <p>3 isn't always sunny it here.</p> | <p>4 he times practises the piano three a week.</p> <p>5 canoeing every they weekend do go??</p> <p>6 misses from work rarely a day Robert.</p> |
|---|---|

4 Complete each sentence in your own words using the present simple.

- 1 Once a week, I
- 2 I don't believe
- 3 My favourite film begins
- 4 To get to my house from the station, you