

# 9 Verbs, verb tenses, imperatives

## 9.1 The simple present and present progressive tenses (1)

### 9.1A Pronunciation and spelling of the 3rd person, simple present [ > LEG 9.6-7]

#### Study:

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#### 1 Pronunciation [compare plural nouns > 2.5A]:

We pronounce -s as /s/ after these sounds: /f/ *laughs*; /p/ *drops*; /k/ *kicks*; /t/ *lets*.

We pronounce -s as /ɪz/ after /z/ *loses*; /dʒ/ *manages*; /s/ *passes*; /ʃ/ *pushes*; /tʃ/ *stitches*, and /ks/ *mixes*.

We pronounce -s as /z/ after all other sounds: /b/ *robs*; /d/ *adds*; /g/ *digs*; /l/ *fills*; /m/ *dreams*; /n/ *runs*; /ŋ/ *rings*; after vowels: *sees*; after vowel + w or r: *draws*, *stirs*.

#### 2 Spelling

Add -s to most verbs: *work/works*, *drive/drives*, *play/plays*, *run/runs*.

Add -es to verbs ending in -o: *do/does*; -s: *misses*; -x: *mixes*; -ch/-sh: *catches/pushes*.

#### Write:

a Give the third person forms of the verbs in these sentences.

b Show whether you would pronounce the third person form as /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 They laugh a lot. He ..... <i>laughs</i> ..... /s/ | 8 I rush around a lot. She ..... / /        |
| 2 I often drop things. She ..... / /                 | 9 I always saw the wood. She ..... / /      |
| 3 We drink a lot of tea. She ..... / /               | 10 I wear old clothes at home. He ..... / / |
| 4 I often forget things. She ..... / /               | 11 I love sweets. She ..... / /             |
| 5 We often lose things. He ..... / /                 | 12 I often see them. He ..... / /           |
| 6 They manage all right. She ..... / /               | 13 They pay £30 a week rent. He ..... / /   |
| 7 I often pass your house. He ..... / /              | 14 I cry at sad films. She ..... / /        |

### 9.1B Uses of the simple present tense: 'I work/he works' [ > LEG 9.8, 9.12]

#### Study:

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There are seven basic uses of the **simple present tense** [compare > 11.11A]. We use it for:

- 1 Permanent truths: *Summer follows spring. Gases expand when heated.*
- 2 'The present period' (= 'this is the situation at present'): *My sister works in a bank.*
- 3 Habitual actions: *I get up at 7. I sometimes stay up till midnight.*
- 4 Future reference (for timetables, etc.): *The concert begins at 7.30 next Friday evening.*
- 5 Observations and declarations: *I hope so. It says here that ... I love you. I hate him.*
- 6 Instructions: *First you weigh the ingredients.*
- 7 Commentaries: *Becker serves to Lendl.*

#### Write:

Give the correct form of the simple present of each verb.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Water ..... <i>boils</i> ..... at 100°C. (boil) | 9 She never ..... up very early. (get)                |
| 2 Hot air ..... (rise)                            | 10 I occasionally ..... meat. (eat)                   |
| 3 My uncle ..... in a factory. (work)             | 11 The coach ..... at 6 this evening. (leave)         |
| 4 John and Sue ..... glasses. (wear)              | 12 The concert ..... at 7 next Friday. (start)        |
| 5 The children ..... a lot of sweets. (eat)       | 13 I ..... Barcelona won again. (see)                 |
| 6 He only ..... at weekends. (work)               | 14 It's not right, you ..... (know) – I ..... (agree) |
| 7 I always ..... out on Saturdays. (go)           | 15 Can he manage? – I ..... so. (hope)                |
| 8 She ..... to London once a week. (drive)        | 16 It ..... in the paper it'll be hot. (say)          |

## 9.3 The simple past tense

### 9.3A The past form and pronunciation of regular verbs [> LEG 9.14, App 39]

#### Study:

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- 1 Regular verbs always end with a *-d* in the simple past, but we do not always pronounce the *-d* ending in the same way. We usually add *-ed* to the base form of the verb:  
*I play – I played, I open – I opened.* We do not pronounce *-ed* as an extra syllable. We pronounce it as /d/: *I played* /pleɪd/ Not \* /pleɪ-ɪd/ \*; *I opened* /əʊpənd/ Not \* /əʊpə-ɪd/ \*; *I arrived* /əraɪvd/ Not \* /əraɪv-ɪd/ \*; *I married* /mæriɪd/ Not \* /mæri-ɪd/ \* [compare > 2.5A].
- 2 Verbs which end in the following sounds are pronounced /t/ in the past: /k/ *packed*; /s/ *passed*; /tʃ/ *watched*; /ʃ/ *washed*; /f/ *laughed*; /p/ *tipped*.
- 3 A few verbs are pronounced and spelt /d/ or /t/: *burned/burnt, dreamed/dreamt*.
- 4 Verbs ending in the sounds /t/ or /d/ have their past ending pronounced /ɪd/:  
*added, decided, counted, excited, needed, posted, shouted, started, tasted, wanted.*

#### Write:

- a Give the past forms of these regular verbs.
- b Show whether you would pronounce these past forms as /d/, /t/ or /ɪd/.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 We <i>waited</i> an hour yesterday. (wait) /ɪd/ | 10 I ..... TV all evening. (watch) / /        |
| 2 Joan ..... her room on Friday. (clean) / /      | 11 We ..... when we saw them. (laugh) / /     |
| 3 I ..... squash last night. (play) / /           | 12 He ..... the sergeant's orders. (obey) / / |
| 4 She ..... my letter yesterday. (post) / /       | 13 We ..... into the house. (hurry) / /       |
| 5 I ..... at her. (smile) / /                     | 14 You ..... to me! (lie) / /                 |
| 6 She ..... when she saw me. (stop) / /           | 15 I ..... early yesterday. (finish) / /      |
| 7 I ..... of you last night. (dream) / /          | 16 It's ..... in the bill. (include) / /      |
| 8 Who ..... the cakes? (burn) / /                 | 17 I ..... the door before I left. (lock) / / |
| 9 He ..... a lot as a baby. (cry) / /             | 18 We ..... first class. (travel) / /         |

### 9.3B Irregular past forms [> LEG 9.15-16, App 40]

#### Study:

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- 1 Some irregular verbs have the same form in all parts: *hit-hit-hit, cut-cut-cut*.
- 2 Some change one part only: *keep-kept-kept, make-made-made, sell-sold-sold*.
- 3 Some change two parts: *break-broke-broken, know-knew-known, ride-rode-ridden*.

#### Write: Supply the past forms of the irregular verbs in italics.

- 1 I often *see* Giulio. I ..... *saw* ..... him again only yesterday.
- 2 As teenagers, we always ..... each other very well. We still *understand* each other now.
- 3 I hardly ..... Ray's wife. Did you *know* her at all?
- 4 We always *meet* on Sunday. We ..... last Sunday as usual.
- 5 I often *find* things on the beach. I ..... this very old bottle yesterday.
- 6 Someone's always *leaving* that window open. Who ..... it open this time?
- 7 I ..... a lot of letters when I was young. I hardly ever *write* letters now.
- 8 They *sell* all kinds of rubbish now, but they once ..... good handmade furniture.
- 9 She *is* very good at figures, you know. She ..... first in maths at school.
- 10 I *have* the same car now that I ..... five years ago.
- 11 I don't *keep* pets now, but I ..... a dog when I was a boy.
- 12 Where did you *eat* last night? – We ..... at a restaurant.