



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate Grammar

Adapted and modified by

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Banta's Corner Shop by K S Sandhu

Banta lives in Coventry. He owns a little corner shop. He sells newspapers, milk, bread, fruits, vegetables and other groceries. Every day, people come to his shop for small things.

He opens the shop very early. From Monday to Saturday, he opens at 5 a.m. On Sunday, he opens at 6 a.m. He closes every day at 9 p.m. Banta works long hours, but he likes his job.

Banta came to this country 30 years ago. When he arrived, he couldn't speak a word of English. For the first 10 years, he worked in a bakery. Most of the workers were Punjabis from India and Pakistan. They all spoke Punjabi together, so Banta didn't practise English. His English stayed very basic.

Twenty years ago, Banta bought his corner shop. Things changed. Now he talks to customers every day. He says "Good morning!" "How are you?" "Do you want a newspaper?" or "Milk is £1.20 today." Customers ask questions too. "Where are the eggs?" "Do you have fresh bread?" "How much is this?" Banta answers them. Sometimes he makes small mistakes, but most people understand him. His English isn't perfect, but it's good enough for the shop.

Banta uses the present simple a lot. He says things like:

"I open the shop at 5 a.m."

"I don't close early."

"Customers come every day."

"The newspaper arrives at 5 o'clock." He also talks about habits:

"I usually drink tea at 7 a.m."

"I don't eat lunch very late."

"How often do you come here?" he asks his regular customers.

One morning, a new customer comes in. She is a young woman from Poland.

"Hello," she says. "Do you sell Polish bread?"

Banta smiles. "No, sorry, I don't have Polish bread. But I have nice white bread.

Do you want to try it?"

She buys some bread and says, "Thank you. Your English is good!"

Banta laughs. "I promise I try every day!"

Banta feels happy in his shop. He meets people from many countries. He learns new words. He says "I come from India" and "I live in Coventry now." Life isn't

always easy, but the shop is his place. He works hard, talks to people and smiles.

Every evening, when he closes at 9 p.m., he thinks: "Today was good. Tomorrow I open again at 5 a.m." Banta's shop is small, but it is important. People need it, and he needs them.

Practice the Present Simple

- Nurses look after patients.
- The Earth goes around the sun.
- I usually get up at 7 o'clock.
- How often do you go shopping?
- She doesn't drink coffee.
- What time does the shop open?
- I promise to help you.
- I don't understand this word. What does it mean?

Banta says: "I work hard, but I like my customers!"

Unit
2

Present simple (I do)

A Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep. He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. He is a bus driver.

drive(s), work(s), do(es) etc. is the *present simple*:

I/we/you/they	drive/work/do etc.
he/she/it	drives/works/does etc.

B We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- I usually **go** away at weekends.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.
- The cafe **opens** at 7.30 in the morning.

We say:

I **work** but he **works** you **go** but it **goes**
 they **teach** but my sister **teaches** I **have** but he **has**

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

C We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

do	I/we/you/they	work?	I/we/you/they	don't	work
does	he/she/it	drive?	he/she/it	doesn't	drive
		do?			do

- I come from Canada. Where **do** you **come** from?
- I **don't go** away very often.
- What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do** etc.):

- 'What **do** you **do**?' 'I work in a shop.'
- He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.

D We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- How often do** you **go** to the dentist?
- Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- Robert usually **goes** away **two or three times a year**.

E I **promise** / I **apologise** etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you promise to do something, you can say 'I **promise** ...'; when you suggest something, you can say 'I **suggest** ...':

- I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- 'What do **you suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

In the same way we say: I **apologise** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **agree** ... / I **refuse** ... etc.

Exercises

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) close(s) connect(s) go(es) live(s) speak(s) take(s)

- Tanya speaks German very well.
- Ben and Jack to the same school.
- Bad driving many accidents.
- The museum at 4 o'clock on Sundays.
- My parents in a very small flat.
- The Olympic Games place every four years.
- The Panama Canal the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- What time (the banks / close) here?
- I have a car, but I (not / use) it much.
- Where (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish?
- 'What (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport.
- It (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long (it / take) you?

2.3 Complete the sentences using these verbs. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe eat flow ~~go~~ ~~grow~~ make rise tell translate

- The earth goes round the sun.
- Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.
- The sun in the east.
- Bees honey.
- Vegetarians meat.
- An atheist in God.
- An interpreter from one language into another.
- Liars are people who the truth.
- The River Amazon into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often do you play tennis ?
- Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... your sister ?
- You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
..... ?
- You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.
..... ?
- You're not sure whether Lisa speaks Spanish. You want to know. Ask her.
..... ?
- You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... ?

2.5 Complete using the following:

I agree I apologise I insist I promise I recommend ~~I suggest~~

- Mr Evans is not in the office today. I suggest you try calling him tomorrow.
- I won't tell anybody what you said.
(in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal.
- for what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- The new restaurant in Baker Street is very good. it.
- I think you're absolutely right. with you.

Answers

UNIT 2

2.1

- 2 go
- 3 causes
- 4 closes
- 5 live
- 6 take
- 7 connects

2.2

- 2 do the banks close
- 3 don't use
- 4 does Maria come
- 5 do you do
- 6 does this word mean
- 7 doesn't do
- 8 takes ... does it take

2.3

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 3 rises | 7 translates |
| 4 make | 8 don't tell |
| 5 don't eat | 9 flows |
| 6 doesn't believe | |

2.4

- 2 Does your sister play tennis?
- 3 How often do you go to the cinema?
- 4 What does your brother do?
- 5 Do you speak Spanish?
- 6 Where do your grandparents live?

2.5

- 2 I promise
- 3 I insist
- 4 I apologise
- 5 I recommend
- 6 I agree