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Tips and advice for foreign students in the UK

Over 150,000 overseas students live and study in the UK.

Read what some of them think.



Do people in the UK seem friendly?

My experience is very positive. British people like meeting people from other countries.

Rosa, Chile



What differences do you notice?

People say the English are very punctual but I don't think it's true. For example, my physics class never starts on time.

Frank, Switzerland

Presentation

Use the present simple tense to talk about ...

- facts (things that are always or currently true):
*Over 150,000 overseas students **live and study** in the UK.*
- repeated events and routines:
*I **have** a physics class every Monday at 9 a.m.*
*It **never starts** on time!*
- likes/dislikes and opinions:
*British people **like** meeting people from other countries.*
*I **don't think** it's true.*

Third person (he/she/it) -s: key spelling rules

You usually add -s: *live* → *lives*

However, there are exceptions:

- Add -es to verbs ending in -ch, -o, -s, -ss, -sh, and -x: *watch* → *watches*, *go* → *goes*
- Change verbs ending in consonant + y to -i: *study* → *studies*
- Do NOT change the ending -y after a vowel: *buy* → *buys* NOT *buies*
- Note also *have* → *has*

Affirmative

I / You / We / They	live	in the UK.
He / She / It	lives	

Negative

I / You / We / They	don't (do not)	think	it's true.
He / She / It	does not (doesn't)		

You usually use the contracted forms *don't/doesn't* when speaking and writing informally.

Questions and short answers

Do	I / you / we / they	seem	friendly?
Does	he / she / it		

Yes,	I am.	No,	I'm not.
	you / we / they are.		you / we / they aren't.
	he / she / it is.		he / she / it isn't.

Where	do	I / you / we / they	come from?
	does	he / she / it	

1 Complete the sentences with the present simple form of the verbs in the box.

catch cost enjoy feel go have live study travel understand

- 1 Ricki goes to English classes twice a week.
- 2 The US President lives in the White House.
- 3 We always take the bus to work at eight in the morning.
- 4 This bicycle costs over \$500.
- 5 He enjoys playing computer games with his friends.
- 6 Most people in France take their summer vacation in July and August.
- 7 Nigel and Bruce study for their exams in the evenings.
- 8 The Moon travels around the Earth at 3,683 kilometers per hour.
- 9 How do you feel today? Are you better?
- 10 I don't understand this question. Can you help me?

2 Complete the interview for a school magazine. Use the present simple form of the verbs in parentheses.

Gabi Teschner, a German exchange student, is spending three months in the US.

Interviewer: What ¹ do you notice (notice) about students in the US?

Gabi: They ² get up (get up) very early for school.

Interviewer: What time ³ (school/start) in Germany?

Gabi: We also ⁴ (begin) at eight o'clock but in the US the school day ⁵ (last) longer. Also the schedule ⁶ (not give) much time for breaks and lunch.

Interviewer: What ⁷ (you think) of American food, Gabi?

Gabi: I ⁸ (like) the breakfasts because they are similar to Germany but the school lunch ⁹ (not taste) very good. It's always burgers or pizza and fries.

Interviewer: And what ¹⁰ (students do) in their free time?

Gabi: Sports are very important in the US so they ¹¹ (play) baseball or football after school.

Interviewer: ¹² (you play) these sports in Germany?

Gabi: Yes, I'm in a women's football team but we ¹³ (not use) an oval ball. Our footballs, or soccer balls, are round!



Gabi Teschner



3 Correct the sentences. Three sentences are correct.

- 1 Everyone has a cell phone these days. ✓
- 2 What time ~~does~~ you get up? do
- 3 I doesn't believe everything in newspapers.
- 4 Do they like meeting people?
- 5 The postman bring the letters in the morning.
- 6 The children like the cake.
- 7 How often does he goes to the gym?
- 8 It not feel very comfortable.
- 9 My sister studys modern languages at college.
- 10 What similarities you see between the two nationalities?