

A2 TEENS · GRAMMAR · LESSON 01

# Secret Talents

## *What my family doesn't know I do*

Everyone has a hidden skill — a dance move in the mirror, a song sung only in the shower, a weird talent nobody has seen. In this lesson, you will learn the **Present Simple** to talk about habits, hobbies, and the things you secretly do every day.

⌚ 45 min · ✓ CEFR A2 · ♦ Present Simple · ♦ Habits & Hobbies

**01**

WARM-UP

## Think before you read

### Before the lesson, ask yourself...

Take a minute. You don't need to write the answers — just think or tell a partner.

1. Do you have a hobby that your parents don't know about?
2. What do you do every day that nobody sees?
3. Do you sing in the shower? Dance in your room? Talk to your pet?
4. What is a "secret talent"? Can you give an example?

**02**

GRAMMAR FOCUS

## Present Simple — the tense of your everyday life

### When do we use Present Simple?

We use the Present Simple for things that are **always true**, for **habits** (things we do often), and for **routines**.

HABIT

I **play** the guitar in my room every night.

ROUTINE

My sister **writes** songs on her phone after school.

FACT

Teenagers **have** more secrets than adults.

### How do we build the sentence?

✓ POSITIVE

I / You / We / They	+	verb	=	I dance
He / She / It	+	verb + s/es	=	She dances

✗ NEGATIVE

I / You / We / They	+	don't + verb	=	I don't sing
He / She / It	+	doesn't + verb	=	He doesn't sing

? QUESTION

Do	+	I / you / we / they	+	verb ?	=	Do you dance?
Does	+	he / she / it	+	verb ?	=	Does she dance?

### Spelling rules for he / she / it

When we talk about **he**, **she**, or **it**, we add **-s** or **-es** to the verb. But watch out — there are a few spelling rules!

RULE	EXAMPLES
<b>Most verbs: add -s</b>	play → plays, sing → sings, dance → dances
<b>After -o, -s, -sh, -ch, -x, -z: add -es</b>	go → goes, watch → watches, fix → fixes
<b>Consonant + -y: change y → i and add -es</b>	study → studies, cry → cries, try → tries
<b>Vowel + -y: just add -s</b>	play → plays, say → says
<b>Irregular (watch out!)</b>	have → has, do → does, be → is

⊕ SIGNAL WORDS — LOOK FOR THESE!

always · usually · often · sometimes · rarely · never · every day · every morning · on Mondays · twice a week

03

KEY VOCABULARY

Words you will meet in the story

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<b>secret</b> <i>adjective</i>	something you don't tell other people	<i>My diary is secret — nobody reads it.</i>
<b>talent</b> <i>noun</i>	a natural skill you are good at	<i>She has a talent for drawing animals.</i>
<b>hobby</b> <i>noun</i>	an activity you do for fun in your free time	<i>My hobby is collecting stickers.</i>
<b>shy</b> <i>adjective</i>	nervous about being with new people	<i>I'm too shy to sing in front of my class.</i>
<b>alone</b> <i>adj / adv</i>	without other people	<i>I practise alone in my bedroom.</i>
<b>pretend</b> <i>verb</i>	to act like something is true when it isn't	<i>He pretends to be a famous singer.</i>
<b>notice</b> <i>verb</i>	to see or become aware of something	<i>My parents don't notice my new shoes.</i>
<b>proud</b> <i>adjective</i>	happy because of something done well	<i>I feel proud when I finish a drawing.</i>
<b>share</b> <i>verb</i>	to tell / give a part of something	<i>One day I will share my songs with the world.</i>
<b>embarrassed</b> <i>adjective</i>	feeling nervous around others	<i>I feel embarrassed when people watch me dance.</i>

04

READING

Four teenagers, four secret talents

REAL STORIES · ISSUE 01

## Behind Closed Doors

*What teens really do after school*

*Interviews with four students from around the world*

Every teenager has a secret. Not a bad secret — a special one. A **hobby**, a **talent**, a small thing they love but nobody sees. We asked four teens to tell us theirs.

§ **Maya, 14 — "I write poems on my phone"**

My name is Maya. I **live** in a small town in Spain, and I **have** a big secret — I **write** poems. I **write** in English because it **feels** more special. Every evening, after my homework, I **open** the notes app on my phone and I **start** a new poem. My mum **thinks** I **chat** with my friends. She **doesn't know** that I have 84 poems on my phone. I don't **show** them to anyone. Not yet. I'm a little **shy**.

### § Leo, 13 — "I dance in front of the mirror"

I **love** K-pop. My sister and my brother **play** football and video games, so they **laugh** at me when I say I like dancing. So I **practise alone**. Every Saturday morning, when my family **goes** shopping, I **close** my door, I **turn on** the music, and I **copy** the dance moves from the videos. I **know** fifteen dances now. My mirror is my only audience. My dog **watches** me sometimes — he **doesn't** laugh.

### § Ayse, 15 — "I draw my teachers"

In every class, I **sit** at the back. I **take** out my notebook and I **draw**. I **draw** my teachers. Mr Kaya has a very big nose, so I **draw** it even bigger. Our maths teacher always **wears** strange ties — I **draw** those, too. My friends **notice** when I laugh, but they **don't see** my notebook. I **keep** it in my bag. I **don't** want to be in trouble! But honestly? I **feel proud** of my drawings.

### § Kenji, 14 — "I cook for my dog"

This is strange, I know. My dog Momo **doesn't eat** normal dog food — he **hates** it. So every evening, I **cook** special food for him. I **boil** chicken, I **cut** vegetables, I **mix** everything in his bowl. My mum **thinks** I just **feed** the dog. She **doesn't know** I **cook** from scratch every day. Momo **wags** his tail and **kisses** my face. That's my favourite moment of the day.

**Editor's note:** So — four teens, four secret worlds. Maybe your best friend has a secret talent too. Maybe **you** do. Are you brave enough to share yours?

**05**

PRACTICE

**Fill in the blanks**

★ Read each sentence and circle the correct option below. Watch the spelling rules for *he / she / it!*

- 1 Maya \_\_\_\_\_ poems every evening on her phone.  
 write                       writes                       writting
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ my drawings to anyone.  
 don't shows               don't show               doesn't show
- 3 Leo's dog \_\_\_\_\_ him when he dances.  
 watch                       watchs                       watches
- 4 Kenji's mum \_\_\_\_\_ the truth about the dog food.  
 don't know               doesn't knows               doesn't know
- 5 My sister usually \_\_\_\_\_ in her room after dinner.  
 studys                       studies                       studyes
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ you have a secret hobby?  
 Do                               Does                               Are
- 7 Ayse \_\_\_\_\_ her teachers in her notebook.  
 draw                               draws                               drawes
- 8 My brother \_\_\_\_\_ dancing, but I love it.  
 don't likes                       doesn't likes                       doesn't like

**06**

SPEAKING

**Interview your partner****Find your partner's secret**

Work with a partner. Ask these questions. Use the Present Simple in your answers. Try to ask one more question after their answer!

- ▶ Do you have a secret hobby or talent?
- ▶ What do you do when you are alone at home?
- ▶ Do your parents know about it? Why / why not?

- ▶ How often do you practise it?
- ▶ Do you want to share it one day? With who?

**EXAMPLE CONVERSATION**

- A:** Do you have a secret hobby?
- B:** Yes, I do. I write songs on my guitar.
- A:** Wow! How often do you write?
- B:** I usually write on Sunday afternoons. I don't show them to anyone.
- A:** Does your family know?
- B:** My sister knows, but my parents don't.

**07** **WRITING**  
**Your own secret talent story**

**Write a short paragraph (60-80 words)**

Write about your own secret talent or hobby — or invent one! Use the Present Simple. Try to include these things:

- at least 5 Present Simple verbs (e.g. *I play, she sings*)
- at least one negative sentence (*I don't... or he doesn't...*)
- at least one signal word (*every day, sometimes, always*)
- answer the question: *Why is it a secret?*

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**08**

QUIZ

## Check your understanding

Circle the correct answer for each question. Check your answers on the last page.

**1. Choose the correct form: Maya \_\_\_\_ poems every night.**

- A. write
- B. writes
- C. writting
- D. is writing

**2. Which sentence is CORRECT?**

- A. He don't like K-pop.
- B. He doesn't likes K-pop.
- C. He doesn't like K-pop.
- D. He not like K-pop.

**3. Kenji \_\_\_\_ special food for his dog every evening. (cook)**

- A. cook
- B. cooks
- C. cookes
- D. is cook

**4. \_\_\_\_ your sister dance in her room?**

- A. Do
- B. Does
- C. Is
- D. Are

**5. Choose the correct spelling:**

- A. She studys English.
- B. She studies English.
- C. She studyes English.
- D. She study English.

**6. Which word is a signal for Present Simple?**

- A. now
- B. at the moment
- C. every Saturday

D. look!

**7. Ayse \_\_\_\_ her drawings to her friends.**

A. don't show

B. doesn't shows

C. doesn't show

D. not show

**8. What's the correct question form?**

A. Where you live?

B. Where do you live?

C. Where does you live?

D. Where are you live?

### ANSWER KEY

#### Fill in the blanks:

1. writes · 2. don't show · 3. watches · 4. doesn't know  
5. studies · 6. Do · 7. draws · 8. doesn't like

#### Quiz:

1. B · 2. C · 3. B · 4. B · 5. B · 6. C · 7. C · 8. B

*Well done! Next lesson: Present Continuous — "Caught in the Act: Weird things people do in public."*