ESL LAB

Present Simple Games Pack

Six printable games for adults who know the rule but still say *she work*. Each game has a winner, and every answer is on the page, so pairs and small groups play and check on their own.

LEVEL	STUDENTS	GROUPING	TIME
A1 to B1	Adults and older teens	Pairs and small groups	10 to 25 minutes each

What's inside, in the order of the blog post

1	**The -s Race**	A board game: say the sentence right to stay on your square	**Page 2**
2	**Answer First**	Read Mia's answer, ask the question that gets it	**Page 3**
3	**Guess the Neighbor**	Sixteen neighbors, yes/no questions with does	**Page 4**
4	**Routine Top Trumps**	Twelve invented workers, wh-questions to win cards	**Pages 5-6**
5	**Adverb Order Race**	Ten cut-up sentences with always, usually, never	**Page 7**
6	**Mistake Hunt**	Find the eight mistakes in Karl the baker's day	**Page 8**

Print one copy per pair or group. Pages 4 to 7 have cards or tiles: cut on the dashed lines. Game 1 needs one die and a coin for each player.

The present simple on one page

HE, SHE, IT + S

work → works
watch, fix, go → watches, fixes, goes
study → studies, have → has

NEGATIVES AND QUESTIONS

She doesn't drink coffee.
Does he live here?
Yes, he does. / No, he doesn't.

ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

She always walks to work.
She is never late.
Before the verb, after *be*.

GAME 1

The -s Race

YOU NEED one die, a coin for each player, two to four players

1. Take turns. Roll the die and move your coin.
2. Make a sentence with the words on your square. The sign says which kind: **+** a statement, **–** a negative, **?** a question.
3. Your partner checks the answers at the bottom. Wrong? Go back to the square you came from.
4. The first player to reach Finish wins.

START	2 + **my sister** have two kids	3 – **my boss** drink coffee	4 ? **your cat** sleep all day	5 + **my parents** live in the city	6 + **the bus** stop near my office
12 ? **your manager** go to the gym	11 + **my dad** fix things at home	10 – **my neighbors** have a dog	9 ? **your teacher** give homework	8 + **my friend** study at night	7 + **my brother** watch football
13 + **it** rain a lot here in winter	14 – **my best friend** play the guitar	15 ? **the store** open on Sundays	16 + **my colleague** fly to meetings	17 ? **your grandparents** use WhatsApp	18 + **my mom** wash the car
24 + **my boss** finish early on Fridays	23 – **my roommate** do the dishes	22 ? **your partner** cook dinner	21 + **the train** leave at 7:15	20 + **my son** carry his phone everywhere	19 – **I** eat breakfast at work
25 + **we** have meetings on Mondays	26 ? **your brother** have a car	27 + **my uncle** miss the bus a lot	28 – **my phone** work without Wi-Fi	29 + **my cousin** try new restaurants	30 FINISH

SPELLING most verbs *+s*: works *-sh, -ch, -x, -s, -o +es*: washes, goes consonant + *y* → *ies*: studies *have* → *has*

Answers: **2** has **3** doesn't drink **4** Does ... sleep **5** live **6** stops **7** watches **8** studies **9** Does ... give **10** don't have **11** fixes **12** Does ... go **13** rains **14** doesn't play **15** Does ... open **16** flies **17** Do ... use **18** washes **19** don't eat **20** carries **21** leaves **22** Does ... cook **23** doesn't do **24** finishes **25** have **26** Does ... have **27** misses **28** doesn't work **29** tries

GAME 2

Answer First

1. Play in two pairs or two teams. Mia is the same woman on every card.
2. Choose a card and read Mia's answer. Ask the question that gets this answer, with the words after *Use*: *In a bank.* → *Where does Mia work?*
3. The other team checks the questions at the bottom of the page. A right question wins the points; cross out the card.
4. When all the cards are crossed out, the team with more points wins.

Work	Free time	Food	Home
100 **In a bank.** Use: work	**100** **Yes, she does. She loves them.** Use: like, movies	**100** **No, she doesn't.** Use: eat meat	**100** **Yes, she does. A cat.** Use: have a pet
200 **By bus.** Use: get to work	**200** **Tennis.** Use: what, play, on Sundays	**200** **Green tea.** Use: what, drink, in the morning	**200** **In Lisbon.** Use: live
300 **At 8:30.** Use: start work	**300** **Twice a week.** Use: how often, go swimming	**300** **At her desk, usually.** Use: where, usually, have lunch	**300** **Two.** Use: how many roommates, have
400 **No, she doesn't. She works from home on Fridays.** Use: go to the office, Fridays	**400** **With her brother.** Use: who, watch football with	**400** **Because she doesn't have time.** Use: why, skip breakfast	**400** **Her roommate Leo does.** Use: who, cook dinner

Remember: *Where does Mia work?* not *Where Mia works?* · After *does*, no *-s*: *Does she live?*

Questions: **Work 100** Where does Mia work? **Work 200** How does Mia get to work? **Work 300** What time does Mia start work? **Work 400** Does Mia go to the office on Fridays? **Free time 100** Does Mia like movies? **Free time 200** What does Mia play on Sundays? **Free time 300** How often does Mia go swimming? **Free time 400** Who does Mia watch football with? **Food 100** Does Mia eat meat? **Food 200** What does Mia drink in the morning? **Food 300** Where does Mia usually have lunch? **Food 400** Why does Mia skip breakfast? **Home 100** Does Mia have a pet? **Home 200** Where does Mia live? **Home 300** How many roommates does Mia have? **Home 400** Who cooks dinner? (no does!)

GAME 3

Guess the Neighbor

YOU NEED one copy of this page per player, a pencil

1. Each player has a copy of this page. Choose one neighbor in secret and write the apartment number on a piece of paper.
2. Take turns to ask one yes/no question: *Does your neighbor drink tea?* Answer with *Yes, he does* or *No, she doesn't*.
3. Cross out the neighbors it can't be. Ask only about the four habits, not the name.
4. When you know, ask: *Is it Apt 7?* A wrong guess loses the round. Play five rounds: the player who needs fewer questions wins each round.

APT 1
Ana
- drinks coffee
- has a dog
- works in an office
- gets up late

APT 2
Bruno
- drinks tea
- has a dog
- works in an office
- gets up early

APT 3
Carla
- drinks coffee
- has a dog
- works from home
- gets up early

APT 4
Diego
- drinks coffee
- has a dog
- works in an office
- gets up early

APT 5
Elena
- drinks tea
- has a dog
- works from home
- gets up early

APT 6
Felipe
- drinks coffee
- has a cat
- works in an office
- gets up late

APT 7
Greta
- drinks coffee
- has a cat
- works in an office
- gets up early

APT 8
Hugo
- drinks tea
- has a cat
- works in an office
- gets up early

APT 9
Irene
- drinks coffee
- has a cat
- works from home
- gets up late

APT 10
Jonas
- drinks tea
- has a cat
- works in an office
- gets up late

APT 11
Lucia
- drinks tea
- has a dog
- works in an office
- gets up late

APT 12
Marco
- drinks tea
- has a dog
- works from home
- gets up late

APT 13
Nina
- drinks coffee
- has a dog
- works from home
- gets up late

APT 14
Oscar
- drinks coffee
- has a cat
- works from home
- gets up early

APT 15
Paula
- drinks tea
- has a cat
- works from home
- gets up late

APT 16
Tomas
- drinks tea
- has a cat
- works from home
- gets up early

Ask like this: *Does your neighbor get up early? · Does he have a dog? · Does she work from home?* After *does*, no *-s*.

Free for classroom use. Share the link, not the file: **esllaboratory.com**

GAME 4

Routine Top Trumps

YOU NEED cards from pages 5 and 6, two or three players

1. Cut out all twelve cards and deal them. Hold your cards in a pile, face up, so only you can see the top one.
2. Player A chooses a line and asks: *What time does your person get up? How many cups of coffee does he drink?*
3. Player B reads the answer in a full sentence: *Pedro gets up at 5 a.m.* The better number wins both cards. Forget the *-s* and you lose the round.
4. The winner asks next. After ten minutes, the player with more cards wins.

1 Rosa — Night nurse

Gets up at (Earlier wins)	3:00 p.m.
Cups of coffee a day (More wins)	4
Hours at work a week (More wins)	36
Minutes to get to work (Fewer wins)	25

She works at night and sleeps in the morning.

2 Karl — Baker

Gets up at (Earlier wins)	3:30 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day (More wins)	2
Hours at work a week (More wins)	48
Minutes to get to work (Fewer wins)	5

He starts work before the town wakes up.

3 Ines — University student

Gets up at (Earlier wins)	11:00 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day (More wins)	3
Hours at work a week (More wins)	10
Minutes to get to work (Fewer wins)	40

She studies at night and works in a cafe on Saturdays.

4 Pedro — Taxi driver

Gets up at (Earlier wins)	5:00 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day (More wins)	5
Hours at work a week (More wins)	55
Minutes to get to work (Fewer wins)	3

He lives above his garage, so he walks to his car.

5 Marta — Farmer

Gets up at (Earlier wins)	4:30 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day (More wins)	1
Hours at work a week (More wins)	60
Minutes to get to work (Fewer wins)	1

She feeds the cows before breakfast.

6 Leo — Software developer

Gets up at (Earlier wins)	8:30 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day (More wins)	6
Hours at work a week (More wins)	40
Minutes to get to work (Fewer wins)	0

He works from home and never takes the bus.

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GAME 4

Routine Top Trumps (cards 7 to 12)

Questions for each line: *What time does she get up? · How many cups of coffee does he drink a day? · How many hours does she work a week? · How long does it take him to get to work?* A tie? Both cards go in the middle and the next winner takes them.

7 Sofia — Flight attendant

Gets up at	Earlier wins	4:00 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day	More wins	2
Hours at work a week	More wins	42
Minutes to get to work	Fewer wins	50

She flies to three cities in a day.

8 Javier — Primary school teacher

Gets up at	Earlier wins	6:15 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day	More wins	3
Hours at work a week	More wins	45
Minutes to get to work	Fewer wins	20

He grades homework on the train.

9 Nora — Dog walker

Gets up at	Earlier wins	6:30 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day	More wins	2
Hours at work a week	More wins	30
Minutes to get to work	Fewer wins	10

She walks eight dogs before lunch.

10 Tom — TV chef

Gets up at	Earlier wins	9:00 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day	More wins	7
Hours at work a week	More wins	50
Minutes to get to work	Fewer wins	35

He tastes everything, so he never eats lunch.

11 Ali — Football coach

Gets up at	Earlier wins	7:30 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day	More wins	1
Hours at work a week	More wins	38
Minutes to get to work	Fewer wins	15

He runs with the team every morning.

12 Clara — Hotel receptionist

Gets up at	Earlier wins	5:45 a.m.
Cups of coffee a day	More wins	4
Hours at work a week	More wins	40
Minutes to get to work	Fewer wins	30

She answers the phone in four languages.

GAME 5

Adverb Order Race

always	usually	often	sometimes	hardly ever	never
100%					0%

1. Cut out the tiles. Keep each numbered sentence in its own pile, then mix up the piles.
2. Teams race to put each sentence in order. The number on a tile tells you which sentence it belongs to.
3. Write each sentence down with a capital letter and a period, then check at the bottom of the page. Each right sentence wins a point.
4. The team that finishes first with the most points wins. Then make one true sentence about you with each adverb.

1	1 coffee	1 before work	1 drink	1 I	1 always
2	2 for meetings	2 late	2 she	2 never	2 is
3	3 usually	3 my boss	3 works	3 on Saturdays	
4	4 dinner	4 at nine	4 eat	4 often	4 we
5	5 doesn't	5 he	5 take	5 usually	5 the bus
6	6 on Mondays	6 are	6 sometimes	6 they	6 tired
7	7 you	7 do	7 at home	7 cook	7 ever
8	8 TV	8 my sister	8 watches	8 hardly ever	
9	9 on time	9 is	9 our train	9 usually	
10	10 never	10 answer	10 the phone	10 my parents	10 after ten

The rule: the adverb goes before the main verb (*she <u>always</u> walks*) but after *be* (*she is <u>never</u> late*).

Answers: **1** I always drink coffee before work. **2** She is never late for meetings. **3** My boss usually works on Saturdays. **4** We often eat dinner at nine. **5** He doesn't usually take the bus. **6** They are sometimes tired on Mondays. **7** Do you ever cook at home? **8** My sister hardly ever watches TV. **9** Our train is usually on time. **10** My parents never answer the phone after ten.

GAME 6

Mistake Hunt

1. Work in pairs. Karl is the baker from the Top Trumps cards. His story has **eight** mistakes with the present simple.
2. Underline each mistake and write the right form above it. Write your time in the box when you find all eight.
3. Check at the bottom of the page. One point for each mistake you found and fixed. The pair with the most points wins; if two pairs tie, the faster one wins.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KARL, THE BAKER

Karl is a baker in a small town. He get up at 3:30 every morning and walks to the bakery, five minutes from his house. He don't drink coffee before work. He drinks it at seven, when the first customers arrives. The bakery open at six, but Karl and his assistant start at four. They make bread, cakes and Karl's famous cinnamon rolls. His assistant, Lena, studys in the afternoon, so she leaves at noon. Karl usually go home at two. Does he sleeps in the afternoon? Yes, he does, for one hour. On Sundays the bakery is closed. Karl always is tired on Sunday, but he is happy.

Mistakes found ☐ / 8 **Our time** ☐

Your turn

Write four sentences about the day of a person you know: what they do, when and how often. Put one mistake in your sentences, then swap with another pair and find it.

Answers: **1** get → gets **2** don't → doesn't **3** arrives → arrive **4** open → opens **5** studys → studies **6** go → goes **7** Does he sleeps → Does he sleep **8** always is → is always