

## REGULAR VERBS

### Standard English verbs change in two major ways:

(1) The plain form appears after *I* and *you*, and after any subject in the plural: I *talk*, you *talk*; the girls *talk*, several people *talk*, children *talk*. The *-s* form appears after *he*, *she*, or *it*, or whenever we talk about what *one* third party (not *I* or *you*) does *now*: he *talks*, she *talks*, the teacher *talks*, my cousin *talks* (**third person, singular**).

**Plain Form:** I *write*, we *pray*, they *argue*; his sister's *work*, monks *mediate*

**Third Person, Present:** She *writes*, he *prays*, his mother *argues*, Jean *works*, the monks *meditates*

Note that for third person, present time, *do* changes to *does*; *don't* changes to *doesn't* :

**Plain Form:** I *don't* write; these bears *don't* hibernate

**Third Person, Present:** She *doesn't* write; this bears *doesn't* hibernate

(2) For action in the **past**, many everyday verbs change from the plain form to the form with *-d* or *-ed*. Use the past form *regardless* of who the subject is. Note the change in spelling in words like *study-studied*, *apply-applied*, *testify-testified*, and in words like *drop-dropped*, *stop-stopped*, *plan-planned*.

**Present:** we *arrive*, they *copy*, I *believe*, planes *crash*

**Past:** we *arrived*, they *copied*, I *believed*, the plan *crashed*

### EXERCISE

Each of the following sets puts a regular English verb through its paces. In the first blank, fill in the plain form or the *-s* form as appropriate. In the second blank, fill in the past form. In the third blank, fill in *don't* or *doesn't* as appropriate.

1. I always *walk* to school. My sister also \_\_\_\_\_ to school. My father \_\_\_\_\_ to school in his day. My brothers \_\_\_\_\_ walk anywhere.
2. Each morning my brothers *start* to complain. My younger brother's car never \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ it for him yesterday. It's not my fault if his car \_\_\_\_\_ start.
3. My friends *work* during the summer. My best friend now \_\_\_\_\_ at night. Last summer, he \_\_\_\_\_ at a gas station. But he \_\_\_\_\_ work there anymore.
4. Americans frequently *protest* against injustices. Minorities \_\_\_\_\_ against inequality. The colonists \_\_\_\_\_ against unfair taxation. My friends \_\_\_\_\_ protest against anything.
5. Arguments *divide* families. The Mississippi \_\_\_\_\_ the country. The bandits \_\_\_\_\_ the loot. Some businesses \_\_\_\_\_ divide the profits fairly.
6. Small children *ask* many questions. My little sister now \_\_\_\_\_ everybody what everything is. Yesterday she \_\_\_\_\_ me about the stars. My big sister \_\_\_\_\_ ask me

about anything.

7. Many American *investigate* their fellow citizens. This corporation \_\_\_\_\_ job applicants. Last year Congress \_\_\_\_\_ big corporations. I hope this college \_\_\_\_\_ investigate students.

8. Many workers *complain* about their jobs. My cousin always \_\_\_\_\_ about working conditions. Before his accident, he always \_\_\_\_\_ about his insurance payments. He \_\_\_\_\_ complain anymore.

9. New reassurance *open* everyday. Sometimes a famous chef \_\_\_\_\_ a restaurant of his own. The most famous restaurant in town \_\_\_\_\_ in 1906. It \_\_\_\_\_ open on Mondays.

10. Americans love to *organize* thing. Churches \_\_\_\_\_ picnics. The unions \_\_\_\_\_ the workers. Some people \_\_\_\_\_ organize their thoughts.

### EXERCISE

Underline the correct choice.

11. My brother always *talk / talks* in his sleep.

12. Last year, the government *ban / banned* several pesticides.

13. Some people never *share / shares* their good fortune with anyone.

14. Last month, the mother *announce / announced* the engagement.

15. Many recent immigrants *doesn't / don't* speak English.

16. My cousin always *sympathize / sympathizes* with the underdog.

17. This morning, a detective *question / questioned* the neighbors.

18. Our country *doesn't / don't* recognize your new government.

19. All my friends *appreciate / appreciates* your help.

20. This week, the county fair *close / closes* its door.