

Lesson 13: Present-Tense Verbs

LEARN

- The **tense** of a verb tells when an action happens. The action can happen in the present, past, or future.

A verb in the **present tense** tells about an action that happens now or happens often.

Our uncle **drives** a fire truck.
Fire trucks **rush** to a fire.

- A present-tense verb must *agree* with the subject of the sentence. The subject and the verb must both be singular or plural.

- When the subject is a singular noun or *he, she, or it*, add *-s* to the verb.

A fire **spreads** quickly in a house.
It **leaps** from room to room.

- When the subject is a plural noun or *I, we, you, or they*, do not add *-s* to the verb.

Firefighters **save** lives.
They **protect** property, too.



PRACTICE

A Choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject. Then write the verb on the line.

1. A loud siren _____ **wails** _____ in the night. (wail, wails)
2. Two fire trucks _____ **roar** _____ down our block. (roar, roars)
3. I _____ **spot** _____ the flames in a building down the street. (spot, spots)
4. The fire captain _____ **gives** _____ orders to the firefighters. (give, gives)
5. Two women _____ **connect** _____ a hose to the hydrant. (connect, connects)
6. They _____ **aim** _____ the water-filled hose at the fire. (aim, aims)

PRACTICE A *continued*

7. Other firefighters break the front door. (break, breaks)
8. They enter the burning building. (enter, enters)
9. The people inside shout to the firefighters. (shout, shouts)
10. We hope for the best. (hope, hopes)

B Write the present-tense form of the verb in parentheses to correctly complete each sentence.

1. A ladder company arrives next. (arrive)
2. The firefighters raise ladders up to the fifth floor. (raise)
3. One firefighter sprays water into the apartment. (spray)
4. She sees yellow flames and dark smoke. (see)
5. A police officer closes the street to traffic. (close)
6. She calls for backup on her walkie-talkie. (call)
7. I hear an ambulance, too. (hear)
8. The ambulance workers give first aid to two people. (give)
9. People leave the building with the help of the firefighters. (leave)
10. Families stand on the sidewalk. (stand)
11. Fire officials check every part of the building. (check)
12. They find the cause of the fire. (find)
13. The ladder company returns all the equipment to the truck. (return)
14. All the emergency workers leave the site at last. (leave)
15. We appreciate their brave work! (appreciate)



C Ms. Wright's class wrote this list of fire-safety tips. The students made nine mistakes in subject-verb agreement. Use the proofreading marks in the box to correct the errors.

Remember



A present-tense verb must agree with the subject of the sentence. The subject and the verb must both be singular or plural.

Smoke detectors save lives!

In your house each floor ^{needs} ~~need~~ a smoke detector.

Test your smoke detectors once a month. The batteries usually ^{last} ~~lasts~~ about one year.

Fire extinguishers ^{put} ~~puts~~ out fires!

Small fires grow into big ones. Fire extinguishers ^{stop} ~~stops~~ small fires fast. Keep one in the kitchen and another in the basement.

Fire drills keep families safe!






Many families ^{hold} ~~holds~~ fire drills at their homes. Then each person ^{knows} ~~know~~ the safest way out during a fire.

These drills ^{save} ~~saves~~ lives!

Careful adults ^{hide} ~~hides~~ matches!

Matches are useful, but young children ^{play} ~~plays~~ with them sometimes. Make sure the matches in your house are in a safe place.

Proofreading Marks

-  Add
-  Period
-  Take out
-  Capital letter
-  Small letter



Did you correct nine verbs that did not agree with their subjects?

D Verbs show action. If you use descriptive verbs, your readers can see the action more clearly. In each sentence below, change the word in **boldface** to a more descriptive verb. Write the new sentence on the line. The first one is done for you.
Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.

1. I **like** my uncle's work at the firehouse.

I admire my uncle's work at the firehouse.

2. Some days he **cleans** the fire truck.

Some days he shines the fire truck.

3. He **wipes** the equipment, too.

He scrubs the equipment, too.

4. A loud alarm **sounds** sometimes.

A loud alarms rings sometimes.

5. "Fire!" someone **says**.

"Fire!" someone shouts.

6. The firefighters **move** toward their trucks.

The firefighters run toward their trucks.

7. To get downstairs some **go** down a pole.

To get downstairs some slide down a pole.

8. Seconds later the trucks **travel** out the door.

Seconds later the trucks race out the door.

9. The fire trucks **head** to the fire.

The fire trucks speed to the fire.



Go back to the sentences you wrote.
 Circle the descriptive verbs you used.