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GLISH is undoubtedly one of the most important languages in the world today. It is widely used in business and commerce on all five continents. As such, by developing better English language skills, Bangladeshi youths can advance their professional standing and that of Bangladesh in the global community.

The Daily Star in partnership with AKTEL is starting this special page to reinforce the learning of English at the secondary level.

The lessons follow the existing government curriculum of English at the secondary

level and provide the students with further practice in both grammar and functional aspects of the language as well as strategies for developing new vocabulary. The activities given in the lessons are in keeping with the activities of English for Today textbooks. We hope that both the students and the teachers of English in schools across the country will find these lessons useful. By introducing this page, AKTEL and The Daily Star intends to increase the number of students successfully completing English in SSC & HSC examinations.

## Lesson 1

Tense  
Present simple

Verb forms : verb+ing  
to + verb

Wh- questions

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## AN INTERVIEW

Laila is a journalist. She works as a reporter for a cultural magazine Life Style. She writes about various events and interests in the everyday life of the people of her town. This morning she is out on one of the busiest streets in down-town Dhaka.

Laila: Excuse me. I'm from the cultural magazine Life Style. We want to bring out our next issue on how people spend their leisure time. Would you mind answering some questions?

Salim: No. Go ahead.

Laila: Could you please tell me your name, sir?

Salim: My name is Salim Ahmed. I'm a businessman.

Laila: How do you spend your leisure time, Mr. Ahmed?

Salim: Well, I usually play tennis. Sometimes I go fishing at Dhanmondi lake. But to tell you frankly, it's really hard to get much free time now-a-days.

Laila: Thank you, sir, for giving me your time.

Excuse me, ma'am. I'm from the cultural magazine Life Style. Would you be willing to answer a few questions?

Aysha: O.k.

Laila: What's your name and profession, ma'am, and how do you spend your free

time?  
Mariam: My name's Mariam Begum and I'm an architect. I love to paint, so I usually spend my leisure time painting. I love to cook, too, and often try new recipes in my free time.

Laila: Thank you, ma'am. Sorry to bother you, sir. I'm a reporter from the magazine Life



Style. Could you please answer...

Man: Sorry, I'm in a hurry. I really can't stop now.

Laila: Excuse me, sir. I'm from the magazine Life Style. Would you like to answer some questions?

Hassan: Sure, go ahead.

Laila: What's your name and profession, sir?

And how do you spend your leisure time?

Hassan: My name's Hassan and I'm an English teacher. I usually spend my free time reading books or chatting with my friends. In winter I often go cycling in the countryside. I feel great when I ride a bicycle.

Laila: And I'm sure it helps you keep fit too. Thank you, sir.

Excuse me, sir. I'm from Life Style, a cultural magazine. Would you mind telling me your name, profession and how you spend your leisure time?

Anik: My name's Anik Majumder and I am an executive. Well, how do I spend my free time? That's a difficult question to answer since I hardly have any free time. I'm always so exhausted after work that after coming home I just sit back on the sofa and watch TV and do nothing.

Laila: Thank you, sir.

Excuse me, ma'am. May I ask you the same questions?

Sara: Well, I'm Sara. I'm a student and in my free time I play the guitar or spend time with my friends.

Laila: Excuse me,.....



## VOCABULARY

**down-town** used more in American English, means in or towards the city centre, especially its main business area.  
**an issue** one of a regular series of magazines or newspapers.  
**to mind** when you mind doing something, you don't like to do it. It disturbs you to do it.  
**fit** to be in good health  
**recipe** a set of instructions that tells you how to cook something.  
**to chat** to talk in a friendly informal way to somebody.  
**hardly** almost not  
**exhausted** very tired  
**executive** a person who has an important job as a manager of a company or an organization

Here's a poem for you to enjoy

### THE BLACKBIRD Humbert Wolfe

In the far corner  
close by the swings,  
every morning  
a blackbird sings.  
His bill's so yellow  
his coat's so black,  
that he makes a fellow  
whistle back.  
Ann, my daughter,  
thinks that he  
sings for us two  
Especially.



### Activity 1:

Filling in blanks and Using a Dictionary

a. Fill in the blanks in the following passage with appropriate words from the conversation or the list of words in Vocabulary.

Anik is an \_\_\_\_\_. He works hard and is always \_\_\_\_\_ when he \_\_\_\_\_ home after office. He \_\_\_\_\_ does any physical work, so he isn't very \_\_\_\_\_. He ought to play \_\_\_\_\_, or go \_\_\_\_\_, but instead he just \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ nothing in his \_\_\_\_\_ time.

b. Some words have different meanings in different contexts or situations, for example, the words, *fit*, *issue* or *exhaust*. Look up the words in the dictionary. Now read the following sentences and decide which of the meanings in the dictionary each of the words in italics fit into.

The new blue dress *fits* me perfectly.  
She breaks into a *fit* of laughter at the joke.  
The Headmaster has *issued* a new rule about class attendance.  
The school library *issues* three books at a time to a student.  
Rashid *exhausted* all his channels of contacts to get the job.

### Activity 2: Practising to + verb and verb + ing forms



a. Look at the pictures and fill in each blank with the right words:

b. Read the dialogue in the Interview again. Now make a list of verbs that follow 'to' (e.g. to answer), and the verbs to which '-ing' is added (e.g. fishing).

### Activity 3: Speaking

Work in pairs. Say something about an activity. Your partner then makes up a sentence about what that activity does for you or for the person you are talking about.

Example:

Student 1: I spend my leisure time swimming in the river.

Student 2: Swimming keeps you fit.

You can use the following hints:

make/keep/bring/cost  
fit/educated/happy/overweight/money/lazy/healthy

- I spend my time reading books.
- John spends his free time taking pictures.
- Mohan spends his leisure time eating snacks or junk food.
- Jamila spends her leisure time making quilts.
- Seema loves cooking for her father in her leisure time.
- I spend my free time walking in the park.
- Rashed spends his free time doing nothing.
- Sagar spends his leisure time talking on the phone.

NOTE: When we talk about present situations or activities, we often use the following words:

often	never	sometimes	always
rarely	usually	occasionally	frequently

These are called **Adverbs of Frequency**.

Examples:

He **never** comes late to class.

I **usually** do my home-work in the afternoon.

While talking about present situations, we also use the following expressions:

twice a week	every week	daily
every six months	every other month	
annually	three times a year	.... etc.

Examples:

He visits his dentist **every six months**.

She gives music lessons **twice a week**.

Read the above examples carefully. Notice where these expressions come in a sentence.

### Activity 4:

Using Adverbs of Frequency

a. Arrange the first set of Adverbs of Frequency mentioned in the Note in order of frequency. Start with the most frequent one, for example, 'always'...

b. The words in the following sentences are jumbled up. Arrange the words in proper order to make meaningful sentences.

often to library the goes he  
romantic she novels reads usually  
the gives homework always us to teacher  
football we once a week play  
visits inspector school the once in six months the  
practises he writing daily English

c. Write some true statements about yourself and your school using some of the expressions given in exercise A & B.

### Activity 5: Making questions

Complete the following dialogue by filling in each blank with a question or questions.

: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: I'm a teacher of English.  
: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: At Dashed Boys' High School.  
: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: I teach class nine and class ten. But I sometimes have to teach other classes too.  
: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: Because when a teacher is absent for a class a substitute teacher is needed.  
: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: I usually teach fifteen hours a week.  
: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: Yes, I always prepare lesson plans for the next day's class or correct students' papers at home.  
: \_\_\_\_\_?  
: Well, in my free time I write short stories. Besides, I go to visit my old mother whenever I have free time.

### Activity 6:

Writing a Paragraph

Write a paragraph on what you usually do in your free time and why you like to do that.



## Language Focus

We use **Present simple** to talk about present situations that we see as long-term or permanent:

She **is** an architect.

She **loves** cooking.

After some verbs we can use **Verb plus ing forms** which function as nouns. These are known as **Gerunds**.

He **loves fishing**.

**Swimming** keeps him fit.

(The words **fishing** and **swimming** are used as nouns here. These are names of activities, not verbs.)

After some verbs we can use the form **to + the base of a main verb**. This is known as **to + infinitive**.

I **want to talk** to him now.

There are some verbs after which we can use an **ing form** or **to + infinitive** with no difference in the meaning, for example, **like / love / hate / continue**.

She **likes cooking**.

She **likes to cook**.

Note that while talking about some activities we use the verb 'go', while with some others we say 'play'.

We **play** football/tennis/badminton etc.

We **play** the piano/violin/flute/sitar etc.

But, we **go** jogging/sailing/dancing etc.



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