

Occupations

What do you do? is a question about your occupation.

In other words, the main verb "do" (V) in a **question** in the **present simple** is about occupations.

= Do you work or do you study? = What's your occupation?, e.g. I am a language teacher

However, the main verb "do" (V) in a **question** in the **present continuous** is about an action we are doing at the moment, an action in progress

≠ What are you doing? = Just now! In progress..., e.g. I am preparing a podcast episode

Wh- Questions need a **Content** answer

Yes/No Questions – Short answers: when answers are short (sí or no, in Spanish), you have to reply *Yes/No*, + subject + **first verb** in the question. Otherwise, you sound rude.

Wh- / Content Questions

What do you do?

I'm **a teacher**.

What do you do?

I **work**.

Yes/No Questions

Are you a student?

Yes, I **am**.

Is she a student?

No, I **she isn't**.

Yes/No Questions

Do you work?

Yes, I **do**.

Can she speak Chinese?

No, she **can't**.

When you use a **name/noun** to mention your occupation, and it's in the singular, you have to use "a/an", e.g. I'm a teacher (soy profe; cf. We are teachers).

When you use a **verb** to mention your occupation, you just use the **verb**, e.g. I **work** in a school, unless you want to describe your **role!** In this case, you need "as a/an", e.g. I **work as a** teacher (trabajo de profe).

Oral Drilling

What do you do?

I'm **a** student.

I'm a student. I study at university.

I'm a university student.

I'm a secondary student.

I'm a Vocational Training student.

(Formación profesional)

I'm an Advanced VT student

(Carrera técnica)

I study English at an EOI, a state-run language school (*una EOI, iniciales españolas en español + explicación en inglés*)

I study English at a private language school (*academia*).

What do you do?

I **work**. / I'm **a** teacher

I **work as a** teacher

I **am an** office worker.

I **work as an** office worker.

I **work for** an international company.

I work and I study in the evenings.

What do you do?
I'm an electrician
What do you do?
I'm a computer engineer
What does your mother do?
She's a doctor
What does your father do?
He works in a bank
What does your friend do?
She's a shop assistant

What does your friend do?
He's a receptionist
What does your cousin do?
She's a lawyer
What does your cousin do?
He's a journalist
What do your friends do?
They are waiters
What do your friends do?
One is a musician and the other is a pilot

What do you do?
I'm unemployed
I'm out of work
I'm on the dole (UK, porque cobran el subsidio aunque no hayan tenido un contrato formal antes)
I'm a university graduate but I work in a fast food restaurant

When you describe your occupation, you can use the **present simple**, because you feel it is not a short-term temporary action, e.g. I'm an engineer, I work as an engineer; or you can use the **present continuous** if you feel it is!

What do you do?
At the moment, I'm working as a teacher's assistant, but I hope I'll get a job as a teacher some day!
Now I'm working in a fast food restaurant, but I hope I'll find a better job soon!
Now I'm working for a company, but I'm a teacher. I'm also studying to become a teacher.

What do you do?
I'm unemployed. I was fired last month! (te echan)
Sorry to hear that!
What do you do?
I'm unemployed now. I was made redundant last year! (redujeron la plantilla y sobras)
I'm sorry to hear that! Take heart!
What do you do?
I'm unemployed! I'm looking for a job (at the moment)
Cheer up! You'll find one soon!
Good luck! / Best of luck! (with that)
Finally, you might need a past tense, if the person doesn't do that any more!

What do your parents do? My mother is a police officer and my father **is** retired now. He **was** a builder.