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are you doing?" you say, "I am reading a book," or "I am walking down the street," or "I am thinking about what I did yesterday," or "I am wishing the class was over," or whatever you are actually doing at the time. It is the present tense and it is used with an auxiliary in modern English. It is a queer development that has occurred in the English language in these last three hundred years. If I were to say to you, "What do you?" or "What do you do?" as we would express it in our queer modern English method, but it would be the same thing as "What do you?" "What do you do?" There would be what your grammar would tell you is the present tense but actually you would never use it for the present tense. If I would see Mr. Lyons over in Barrington, and if I would step up to Mr. Lyons and I'd say, "Mr. Lyons, what do you do?", Mr. Lyons might at the time be waiting for a street car but he wouldn't say, "I wait for a street car." That would not be the correct answer here. He might at the time be driving his automobile, but he wouldn't answer, "I drive an automobile." There would be two answers which he might give, either of which would be true. He might say, "I preach at the Barrington Bible Presbyterian Church," or he might say, "I attend Faith Theological Seminary." Either of those would be a true answer because the question is not a present question but a frequentative question. It is a question--"What is your customary action?", what is that which is characteristic of your present life?" rather than, "What is the thing that you are doing at this moment?"

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And so if you were on your way to catch fish and I said, "What are you doing?" you might say, "I am going fishing," but if I said, "What do you do?" and you said, "I catch fish," that would not be a correct statement, unless I said, "What do you do in your vacation?" Then you might say, "I go fishing," and that would be a correct answer. It would be stating what it is your custom to do, what you regularly and recurrently do under the circumstances outlined, and thus our English tenses have changed meaning in the course of the three