

# THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE \ زمن المضارع البسيط

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## 1. WHAT IS THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE?

The Present Simple is one of the most fundamental tenses in English. It is used to describe actions, events, and situations that are:

- **Habitual** (things we do regularly)
- **Permanent** (facts that are always true)
- **General** (states that do not change)

It is called "simple" because it does not require auxiliary verbs (like "be" or "have") to form the negative or question in the same way other tenses do. Instead, it uses the base form of the verb (with an -s ending for third-person singular).

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## 2. WHEN DO WE USE THE PRESENT SIMPLE? (USAGE)

We use the Present Simple in the following situations:

### A. Permanent Facts and General Truths

These are facts that are always true, regardless of time.

- *Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.*
- *The Earth revolves around the sun.*
- *People need food and water to survive.*

### B. Habits and Routines

Actions that happen regularly (daily, weekly, monthly).

- *I wake up at 7:00 AM every day.*
- *She drinks coffee every morning.*
- *We go to the gym on Mondays.*

### C. Feelings, Emotions, and States (Stative Verbs)

These describe how we feel or what we think, rather than an action in progress.

- *I love chocolate.*
- *He believes in ghosts.*
- *They understand the problem.*

### D. Scheduled Events in the Near Future (Timetables)

We use the Present Simple for fixed future events, such as transportation schedules, movie releases, or official meetings.

- *The train leaves at 9 PM tonight.*
- *The movie starts in 10 minutes.*
- *My flight departs next Monday.*

### E. Instructions and Directions

When giving step-by-step instructions or directions.

- *You take the first left, then you go straight.*
- *First, you crack the eggs into a bowl.*

### F. Sports Commentaries and Narrations

Commentators use it to describe actions happening in real-time during a match.

- *Messi passes the ball to Neymar.*
- *He shoots and scores!*

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## 3. FORMING THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

### A. The Affirmative (Positive) Form

| Subject                    | Verb Form                   | Example                |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>I / You / We / They</b> | Base verb (V1)              | I <b>work</b> hard.    |
| <b>He / She / It</b>       | Base verb + <b>-s / -es</b> | She <b>works</b> hard. |

### Spelling Rules for the Third Person Singular (-s / -es)

1. **General rule:** Add **-s** (eat → eats, play → plays).
2. **Verbs ending in -s, -sh, -ch, -x, -z:** Add **-es** (watch → watches, fix → fixes).
3. **Verbs ending in consonant + y:** Change **y** to **i** and add **-es** (study → studies, cry → cries).
4. **Verbs ending in vowel + y:** Just add **-s** (play → plays, say → says).
5. **Special verbs:** Have → **has**.

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### B. The Negative Form

We use the auxiliary verb **do** (or **does** for he/she/it) + the word **not**.

| Subject                    | Auxiliary + Not          | Base Verb | Example                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>I / You / We / They</b> | <b>do not (dont)</b>     | Base verb | They <b>do not</b> speak French. |
| <b>He / She / It</b>       | <b>does not (doesnt)</b> | Base verb | She <b>does not</b> like fish.   |

**Important:** When using "does not," we remove the **-s** from the main verb.

- *Incorrect:* She doesnt **likes** fish.
- *Correct:* She doesnt **like** fish.

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### C. The Interrogative (Question) Form

We place **Do** or **Does** at the beginning of the sentence.

| Auxiliary   | Subject             | Base Verb | Example                               |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Do</b>   | I / you / we / they | Base verb | <b>Do</b> you <b>work</b> here?       |
| <b>Does</b> | he / she / it       | Base verb | <b>Does</b> she <b>speak</b> English? |

**Note:** We use the base form of the verb, not the **-s** form.

- *Incorrect:* Does she **speaks** English?
- *Correct:* Does she **speak** English?

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### D. Short Answers

We use "Yes/No" + the subject + the auxiliary verb.

| Question             | Affirmative Short Answer | Negative Short Answer  |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Do you like pizza?   | Yes, I <b>do</b> .       | No, I <b>dont</b> .    |
| Does he play tennis? | Yes, he <b>does</b> .    | No, he <b>doesnt</b> . |

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## 4. TIME EXPRESSIONS (Signal Words)

These words often indicate that the Present Simple should be used:

#### Frequency Adverbs

#### Time Phrases

Always

Every day / week / month / year

Usually

On Mondays / Tuesdays

Often

In the morning / evening (general)

Sometimes

At the weekend (UK) / On the weekend (US)

Seldom / Rarely

Once a day / Twice a week

Never

Three times a month

#### Adverb Placement Rule:

Adverbs of frequency (always, usually, often, etc.) are placed **before** the main verb, but **after** the verb "to be."

- *Correct:* I **often** go to the park.
- *Correct:* She **always** arrives late.
- *Correct:* They **are never** tired. (After "be")

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## 5. COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

#### Mistake

#### Correction

#### Explanation

He **go** to school.

He **goes** to school.

Forgot the **-es** for third person.

She doesn't **works** hard.

She doesn't **work** hard.

Using "doesn't" means the verb must be base form.

**Does** she **works** here?

**Does** she **work** here?

Using "does" means the verb must be base form.

I am knowing the answer.

I **know** the answer.

Using a stative verb (know) in continuous form is incorrect.

We go **never** to the cinema.

We **never go** to the cinema.

Adverb placement is wrong; it goes before the verb.

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## 6. SUMMARY TABLE

| Aspect                  | I / You / We / They     | He / She / It             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Affirmative</b>      | <b>I play</b> football. | He <b>plays</b> football. |
| <b>Negative</b>         | I <b>do not</b> play.   | He <b>does not</b> play.  |
| <b>Question</b>         | <b>Do</b> you play?     | <b>Does</b> he play?      |
| <b>Short Answer (+)</b> | Yes, I <b>do</b> .      | Yes, he <b>does</b> .     |
| <b>Short Answer (-)</b> | No, I <b>don't</b> .    | No, he <b>doesn't</b> .   |

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## 7. PRACTICE EXERCISES (For your own practice)

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the market every Friday.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not / watch) TV in the morning.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / like) chocolate?
4. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (rise) in the east.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (never / eat) meat.

*(Answers: 1. goes, 2. don't watch, 3. Do you like, 4. rises, 5. never eats)*