



Present Simple Tense

The Present Simple Tense (also called the Simple Present Tense)

Simple present tense with 'be':

The verb 'be' is different from the other verbs in this tense. Let's look at 'be' first:

Here's the positive form (positive means a normal sentence, not a negative or a question. This is sometimes called 'affirmative'):

Positive	Positive Short Form
I am	I'm
you are	you're
he is	he's
she is	she's
it is	it's
we are	we're
you are	you're
they are	they're

For example:

- ⇒ I'm Scottish.
- ⇒ She's hungry.
- ⇒ They're always late.

Next, here's the **negative**. It's very easy. You only add 'not':

Negative	Negative short form
I am not	I'm not
you are not	you aren't
he is not	he isn't
she is not	she isn't
it is not	it isn't
we are not	we aren't
they are not	they aren't

For example:

- ✧ I'm not cold.
- ✧ He isn't from Spain.
- ✧ We aren't at home.

Questions

	Wh Questions
Am I?	Where am I?
Are you?	What are you?
Is he?	Why is he?
Is she?	Who is she?
Is it?	What is it?
Are we?	When are we?
Are you?	Where are you?
Are they?	How are they?

For example:

- ☞ Am I next in the queue?
 - ☞ Are you from Tokyo?
 - ☞ Is he at the library at the moment?
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Wh- questions

For example:

- ↪ Where are you from?
- ↪ Who is that girl?
- ↪ Why are they still at work?

Present simple tense with other verbs:

With all other verbs, we make the present simple in the same way.

The positive is really easy. It's just the verb, with an extra 's' if the subject is 'he', 'she', or 'it'. Let's take the verb 'play' as an example:

Positive (of 'play')

I **play**
you **play**
he **plays**
she **plays**
it **plays**
we **play**
you **play**
they **play**

Positive (of 'cook')

I **cook**
you **cook**
he **cooks**
she **cooks**
it **cooks**
we **cook**
you **cook**
they **cook**

For a few verbs, there is a **spelling change** with 'he', 'she' and 'it' before the 's'. For example, 'study' becomes 'studies'..

Present Simple Spelling Changes

Some verbs have present simple spelling changes **with 'he', 'she' or 'it' (3rd person singular)**:

1. Verbs that end in 'y':

Verbs that end in 'y' often change 'y' to 'i' before 'es':

- **study** becomes **studies**
- **try** becomes **tries**
- **marry** becomes **marries**
- **fly** becomes **flies**
- **cry** becomes **cries**



Be careful! 'y' doesn't change to 'ie' if the ending is 'ay', 'ey', 'oy', 'uy'.

- ⇒ play becomes plays,
- ⇒ say becomes says,
- ⇒ buy becomes buys,
- ⇒ enjoy becomes enjoys,
- ⇒ stay becomes stays

2. Verbs that end in 's', 'sh', 'ch', or 'x':

Verbs that end in 's', 'sh', 'ch' or 'x' often add 'es':

- **pass** becomes **passes**
- **wash** becomes **washes**
- **teach** becomes **teaches**

3. There are also few verbs which are **irregular** in the present simple:

- ⇒ 'have' becomes 'has'
- ⇒ 'do' becomes 'does'
- ⇒ 'go' becomes 'goes'

To make the negative form, you need to use 'do not' (**don't**) or 'does not' (**doesn't**):

Negative (of 'play')

I **do** not **play**
you **do** not **play**
he **does** not **play**
she **does** not **play**
it **does** not **play**
we **do** not **play**
you **do** not **play**
they **do** not **play**

Negative (of 'play') short forms

I **don't** **play**
you **don't** **play**
he **doesn't** **play**
she **doesn't** **play**
it **doesn't** **play**
we **don't** **play**
you **don't** **play**
they **don't** **play**

For example:

- ⇒ You **don't** **study** very much.
- ⇒ Julie **doesn't** **like** sport.
- ⇒ We **don't** **live** in London.



Don't add "s" to the verb when you use do / does

We use 'do' or 'does' before the subject to make questions:

Questions

- Do** I **play** ?
- Do** you **play** ?
- Does** he **play** ?
- Does** she **play** ?
- Does** it **play** ?
- Do** we **play** ?
- Do** you **play** ?
- Do** they **play** ?

Wh Questions

- Where do I play ?
- What do you play ?
- Why does he play ?
- Who does she play ?
- When do we play ?
- What do you play ?
- How do they play ?

For example:

- Do you work in an office?
- Does John play cricket every weekend?
- Do they like travelling?

For example:

- Where do you live?
- What does she like to eat?
- Why do they work so hard?

With the *Present Simple*, we often use adverbs of frequency to say 'how often' we do something.

- ⇒ always
- ⇒ usually
- ⇒ often
- ⇒ sometimes
- ⇒ never

We usually put these adverbs in the middle of the sentence, between the **subject** and the **verb**:

- I **often go** to the cinema.
- She **sometimes visits** me at home.
- We **usually drink** coffee.
- They **always have** lunch at home at the weekend.

To say how often something happens, you can use a number or 'several' or 'many', followed by 'times'. (If the number is one, use 'once' instead of 'one time'. If the number is two use 'twice,' instead of 'two times') Then add 'a' and a period of time:

- I **go** to the cinema **twice a week**.
- She **takes** these tablets **three times a day**.
- I **change** the sheets **once a fortnight** (fortnight = two weeks).
- I **meet** him **several times a year**.
- I **visit** my parents **once a month**.

We can also use 'every' + period of time:

- every morning
- every day
- every Tuesday
- every week
- every month

A day of the week with 's' at the end (for example 'on Tuesdays') means the same as 'every Tuesday':

- I take a dance class on Wednesdays.
- I relax on Saturdays.

Practice

A. Make positive present simple sentences:

1. (he / go to school every day)

_____ He goes to school every day _____

2. (I / like swimming)

3. (My dad / often watch TV)

4. (the class / begin at 9 a.m.)

5. (they / sometimes go to the cinema)

6. (she / love chocolate)

7. (we / study French)

8. (they / live in London)

9. (he / work in a restaurant)

10. (Lucy / play the guitar)

11. (we / cook every day)

12. (he / clean the house at the weekends)

13. (I / like reading detective stories)

14. (I / usually stay at home on Fridays)

15. (John and David / often go to restaurants)

16. (Susie / study English every night)

17. (the train / leave at 6 p.m.)

18. (we / go to the park on Sundays)

19. (Tom / always eat breakfast)

20. (she / visit her grandmother every Christmas)

B. Make present simple questions:

1. (you / like cake?)

Do you like cake? _____

2. (she / live in London?)

3. (they / hate studying?)

4. (you / drink tea every morning?)

5. (you smoke?)

6. (he / play tennis on Saturdays?)

7. (you / go shopping at the weekend?)

8. (you / drink alcohol?)

9. (she / work in an office?)

10. (they / study French?)

C. Make negative present simple sentences:

1. (I / not / like coffee)

I don't like coffee _____

2. (I / not / live in Paris)

3. (she / not / come from Spain)

4. (John / not / work in a bank)

5. (they / not / get up at eight o'clock)

6. (we / not / go to the cinema every Friday)

7. (you / not / read the newspaper every day)

8. (he / not / go to school in France)

9. (we / not / watch TV in the evening)

10. (I / not / have a shower in the morning)

D. Make the present simple, positive, negative or question:

1. I _____ (be) in a café now.
2. _____ (she / play) tennis every week?
3. They _____ (go) to the cinema every Wednesday.
4. _____ (she / be) a singer?
5. You _____ (find) the weather here cold.
6. _____ (they / be) on the bus?
7. Lucy _____ (ride) her bicycle to work.
8. Why _____ (he / be) in France?
9. I _____ (not / play) the piano often.
10. It _____ (not / be) cold today.
11. We _____ (be) from Portugal.
12. _____ (we / make) too much noise at night?
13. Where _____ (Harry / study)?
14. _____ (it / be) foggy today?
15. We _____ (not / be) late.
16. They _____ (not / like) animals.
17. Where _____ (you / be)?
18. He _____ (not / be) an accountant.
19. _____ (the dog / eat) chicken?
20. She _____ (be) my sister.

E. Put the verb into the present simple. Be sure you spell it correctly!

1. She _____ (play) tennis every Sunday.
2. He _____ (buy) a cup of coffee every morning.
3. Julie _____ (study) French at school.
4. Luke _____ (try) hard to be polite.
5. She _____ (enjoy) going swimming.
6. Lucy _____ (wash) her hair every day.
7. John never _____ (cry).
8. My mother always _____ (say) that love is more important than money.
9. I hope Julie _____ (pass) the exam.
10. The plane _____ (fly) low over the airport.

