



Simple Present Tense



The simple present (also called present simple or present indefinite) is a verb tense that is used to show repetition, habit, or generalization. We use it to describe an activity that is happening right now or an activity that happens regularly.

The simple present tense has three main uses:

- 1 To describe something that is currently going on, a fact or general truth, and a habit

Examples:

*The Earth **revolves** around the Sun.*
*He **plays** chess every day.*

- 2 To describe scheduled events in the future

Examples: *The plane **lands** in an hour.*

Depending on whether the sentence is being written or spoken in the first person, second person, or third person, **-s**, **-es**, or **-ies** is added to the base form of the verb.

For example, a simple word **“run”** is used with these variations:

Person	Example
First-person singular	I run
Second-person singular	You run
Third-person singular	He runs/ she runs/ it runs
First-person plural	We run
Second-person plural	You run
Third-person plural	They run

The form of the verb changes only in the third person singular in most cases.

The following are the rules followed while deciding whether to add “-s”, “-es” or “-ies”

1 When the verb ends with an -o, -ch, or -sh, we add **-es**.

Examples:

do – he does
wash – she washes
Catch- he catches

2 When the verb ends with a consonant + y, we change the y to **ie** before adding -s. However, a verb that ends with a vowel + **y** takes **-s**.

Examples:

Worry - he worries
Play - he plays

3 Modal verbs such as can, may, might, and must never take an -s. They remain the same in all forms.

Examples:

He can swim.
She must go.

It is important to note that the verb **to be** is irregular:

First-person singular	I am
Second-person singular	You are
Third-person singular	He/She/It is
First-person plural	We are
Second-person plural	You are
Third-person plural	They are

Simple present negative tense

The formula for making a simple present verb negative is: **do/does + not + [root form of the verb]**. You can also use “don’t” or “doesn’t” instead of “do not” or “does not.”

The third-person singular is always preceded by “does not”

Examples:

- I **do not** like chocolates
- We **do not** want the cake.
- You **do not** have to shout.
- You all **do not** seem to have enough strength.
- He **does not** play the piano.
- They **do not** live here anymore

How to Ask a Question (Interrogative Present Tense)

The formula for forming a question in the simple present is **do/does + [subject] + [root form of the verb]**.

Examples:

Does Peter play the piano?

Do you like chocolates?

You can use the following word order to form a **wh** question:

[question word] + auxiliary verb + [subject] + base form of a verb

Examples:

Why are you leaving?

When does the match start?

You can use the following word order for a choice question:

"do" or "does" + [subject] + base form of the verb + choice A + or + choice B

Examples:

Do you like chocolate or vanilla?

Does Peter play the piano or the guitar?

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets.

- 1 The plane _____ at 6:30pm. (depart)
- 2 I will call you when she _____ back. (come)
- 3 Unless we _____ now, we can't reach there on time. (leave)
- 4 She _____ playing the guitar. (enjoy)
- 5 She _____ for her daughter all the time. (worry)
- 6 The bowler _____ the ball with one hand. (catch)
- 7 They _____ in the cool river. (swim)
- 8 They _____ our cousins. (to be)
- 9 She _____ a doctor. (to be)
- 10 The sun _____ in the west. (set)