

THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

FORM

In the affirmative the simple present has the same form as the infinitive but adds an s for the third person singular.

<u>Affirmative</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Interrogative</u>	<u>Negative interrogative</u>
I work	I do not work	do I work?	do I not work?
you work	you do not work	do you work?	do you not work?
he works	she does not work	does it work?	does he not works?
we work	we do not work	do we work?	do we not work?
<u>they work</u>	<u>they do not work</u>	<u>do they work?</u>	<u>do they not work?</u>

CONTRACTIONS: the verb **do** is normally contracted in the negative and negative interrogative: *I don't work, he doesn't work, don't, I work? doesn't he work?*

SPELLING NOTES

Verbs ending in **ss, sh, ch, x** and **o** add **es**, instead of **s** alone, to form the third person singular: *I kiss, he kisses I box, he boxes, I rush, he rushes I do, he does, I watch, he watches I go, he goes*

When **y** follows a consonant we change the **y** into **i** and add **es**: I carry, he carries I copy, he copies I try, he tries. But verbs ending in **y** following a vowel obey the usual rule: *obey, he obeys I say, he says.*

USES

1- HABITUAL ACTION

It is used to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event or something that often happens : *I play tennis every week. He never forgets his wallet.*

The simple present tense is often used with adverbs or adverb phrases such as: *always, never, occasionally, often, sometimes, usually, every week, on Mondays, twice a year etc.: How often do you wash your hair?*

2- FACT OF GENERAL TRUTH

The Simple Present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact : *Cats like milk. California is in America. Windows **are** made of glass. Dogs bark.*

3- SCHEDULED EVENTS IN THE FUTURE

It can be used for a Scheduled (planned) future action or series of actions : *The train leaves tonight at 6 PM. The party starts at 8 o'clock.*

4- ACTIONS HAPPENING NOW WITH NON-NONTINUOUS VERBS

It must be used instead of the present continuous with verbs which cannot be used in the continuous form : *I am here now. He **has** his passport in his hand.*

EXERCISE 1 : Read the following in the third person singular. Do not change the object if it is plural. Note that after certain consonants a final **es** is pronounced as a separate syllable. **B:** kiss, kisses /kis, kisiz/.

- 1 They wish to speak to you. (He)
- 2 Buses pass my house every hour.
- 3 They help their father. (He)
- 4 We change planes at Heathrow.
- 5 You watch too much TV. (He)
- 6 They worry too much. (He)
- 7 I cash a cheque every month. (He)
- 8 I always carry an umbrella. (She)
- 9 They wash the floor every week. (She)
- 10 His sons go to the local school.
- 11 These hens lay brown eggs.
- 12 Rubber balls bounce.
- 13 These figures astonish me.
- 14 Do you like boiled eggs? (he)
- 15 These seats cost J10.
- 16 They fish in the lake. (He)
- 17 Elephants never forget.
- 18 They usually catch the 8' bus.
- 19 They sometimes miss the bus.
- 20 I mix the ingredients together.

EXERCISE 2 : Read the following (a) in the negative (b) in the interrogative (c) negative-interrogative

- 1 You know the answer.
- 2 He has breakfast at 8.00.
- 3 He loves her.
- 4 Some schoolgirls wear uniforms.
- 5 He trusts you.
- 6 He tries hard.
- 7 The park closes at dusk.
- 8 He misses his mother.
- 9 The children like sweets.
- 10 He finishes work at 6.00.
- 11 He lives beside the sea.
- 12 He bullies his sisters.
- 13 This stove heats the water.
- 14 She has a cooked breakfast.
- 15 She carries a sleeping bag.
- 16 He usually believes you.
- 17 She dances in competitions.
- 18 You remember the address.

19 She plays chess very well.

20 He worries about her.

EXERCISE 3 : Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present or the present continuous tense.

1 Cuckoos (not build) nests. They (use) the nests of other birds.

2 You can't see Tom now: he (have) a bath.

3 He usually (drink) coffee but today he (drink) tea.

4 What she (do) in the evenings? ~ She usually (play) cards or (watch) TV.

5 I won't go out now as it (rain) and I -(not have) an umbrella.

6 The last train (leave) the station at 11.30.

7 He usually (speak) so quickly that I (not understand) him.

8 Ann (make) a dress for herself at the moment. She (make) all her own clothes.

9 Hardly anyone (wear) a hat nowadays.

10 I've broken one of your coffee cups. Don't worry. I (not like) that set anyway.

11 I (wear) my sunglasses today because the sun is very strong.

12 Tom can't have the newspaper now because his aunt (read) it.

13 I'm busy at the moment. I (redecorate) the sitting room.

14 The kettle (boil) now. Shall I make the tea?

16 How you (get) to work as a rule? ~ I usually (go) by bus but tomorrow I (go) in Tom's car.

EXERCISE 4 : put the verbs in the present simple or the present continuous

1. Vegetarians are people who (not / eat) meat.

2. Look out! My father (come)

3. Some people still (think) the sun (go) round the earth.

4. I (play) tennis every weekend.

5. Who (sit) in my chair?

6. What (happen) in golf if you (lose) the ball?

7. Look! She (wear) the same shoes as me.

8. a: What (you/look) at? B: A strange bird!

9. I (stay) with John for a few weeks until my flat is ready.

10. We (usually/stay) with Peggy when we go to Chicago.

11. What time (you/go) to bed on Saturdays?

12. Why (you/wait) outside the door.

13. Don't ask Tim. He (not/know) the answer.

14. I (have) lunch at the moment.

15. When (he / leave) the house?

16. I (not/understand). What (happen)?

17. Excuse me, (you/know) the time?

18. This is a great party. I (have) a lovely time.

19. We can't use the lift because it (not/work)

20. a:What (you/do) here? B: Nothing.

21. a: (Penny/like) cheese sandwiches? No,

22. a: What time (the sun/rise)? B: It (rise) at 7.30.

23. We (not/watch) videos at school.

24. Look out of the window! It (snow).

25. a: (you/wear) a uniform at your school? B: Yes,

EXERCISE 5 :Present simple or present continuous?

1. Maria (work) for a TV station.

2. At the moment she (travel) in the Sahara Desert.

3. Dan (love) wild animals.

4. He (not visit) Alaska at the moment.

5. Marta (not live) in Africa.

6. Dad usually (cook) dinner.

7. My parents (go) to Italy every year.

8. We (have) lunch now.

9. I never (stay in) on Saturday evening.

10. He (listen) to pop music at the moment.

11. Donna usually (go) shopping on Saturdays.

12. Who is that man? What he (want)?

13. Who is that man? Why he (look) at us?

14. You (believe) in God?

15. Gilbert says he is 80, but nobody (believe) him.

16. Don't forget to take your umbrella. It (rain).

17. I have to go now. It (get) dark

18. I (play) cricket right now.

19. I (play) cricket on Saturdays.

20. Silvia (cook) in the kitchen now.

21. Silvia (cook) for her father on Sundays.

22. Ann (jog) in the park today.

23. George (want) to go outside.

24. I (not like) politics.

25. What you (do) at the moment?

26. Once a week, I (go) to my yoga lessons.

27. I (think) you're amazing.

28. Look! The boys (come) home.

29. Sofía usually (help) in the kitchen.

30. Bob (make) breakfast now.

31. It never (rain) in Valencia.

32. I (play) chess with my friend.

33. Quiet please! I (write) a letter.

34. I (not do) anything at the moment.

35. He (watch) the news regularly.

36. She often (talk) to herself.