

The simple present tense: usage and form

Usage

Use the simple present tense to talk about facts and habitual actions in the present.

facts habitual actions

Josh speaks Spanish very well. Josh speaks Spanish every day.

They work at Coffee Central. They work late on Fridays.

Form

Add -s to the base form of the verb for third-person singular (he, she, or it).

I like Thai food. He likes Peruvian food.

You study English. She studies French.

They open at 6:00. The store opens at 8:00. We work at a café. Marlene works at a school.

I don't like American food. He doesn't like Greek food. Yes / no questions Use do or does + the base form of a verb to form yes / no questions. Do you speak Portuguese? Does she speak French? NOT Does she speaks French? Write negative statements. 1 Gwen likes classical music. (her sister) . Her sister doesn't like classical music. 2 The café closes at 6:00. (the bookstore) 3 Neal lives in Quito. (his sister) 4 Miles works in an office. (his brother) 5 I have a big family. (my husband) 6 My younger brother speaks Chinese. (I) 7 Kiko's nephew likes hip-hop. (her niece) В Write yes / no questions. 1 A: Does your sister live near you? B: No, she doesn't. She lives in another city. 2 A: drink coffee? B: No, he doesn't. My brother drinks tea. 3 A: children? B: No. We don't have any yet. 4 A: in Mexico? B: No. My in-laws live in Chile. 5 A: English? B: Yes, she does. My niece speaks it well. 6 A: work here? B: Yes, they do. My cousins work downstairs. 7 A: early? **B**: No. The bookstore opens late.

Use don't (do not) or doesn't (does not) + the base form of a verb to make negative statements.

Negative forms



Information questions in the simple present tense: form and common errors

Do and does

Use do or does + the base form of a verb to ask information questions.

Where do your in-laws live? Where does your sister-in-law live?

When do you visit your cousins? When does she visit her nieces?

How often do they go to class? How often does he go to class?

Questions with Who

Compare these questions with Who.

Who visits your aunt in Chicago? My mother does. (My mother = subject)

Who does your mother visit in Chicago? My mother visits my aunt. (my aunt = object)

Be careful! Don't use do or does with Who if the question is about the subject. Always use the third-person singular form to ask questions with Who about the subject.

Who lives here? NOT Who does live here? NOT Who live here?

How many

Be careful! Always use How many with plural nouns.

How many cousins do you have? NOT How many cousin do you have?

Complete the information questions.

1	A: ?	6	A: speaks Russian?
	B: He's a doctor.		B: My brother-in-law does.
2	A: your in-laws?	7	A: your niece with?
	B: They live in Seoul.		B: She lives with my aunt.
3	A:?	8	A:?
	B: I have ten of them.		B: I study late at night.
4	A: your parents?	9	A: has three kids?
	B: I visit them every weekend.		B: My younger sister does.
5	A: your stepsister?	10	A: your older brother?
	B: She lives across the street.		B: He studies in London.