

What is present simple?

This is something you probably remember from your English 1 and 2 courses. Let's take a look at its structure.

Affirmative sentences

To make an affirmative sentence in present simple, write the subject, then the verb and finally the rest of the sentence:

Subject	Verb	Complement
I	like	comic books.
She	lives	in Veracruz.
They	works	at home.

Remember that the spelling for the verb in the third person is different from the rest since it depends on the verb ending. Look at the following rules:

- a. For most verbs, just add **-S**. For example:
 - Maria works at the office.
 - He dances on Saturday.
 - It rains a lot in fall.
- b. For verbs that end in **-O**, **-CH**, **-SH**, **-SS**, **-X**, or **-Z**, add **-ES**. For example:
 - My son goes to school every day. (go-goes)
 - She catches the bus after work. (catch-catches)
 - He watches TV at night. (watch-watches)
 - That mother kisses her baby kindly. (kiss-kisses)
 - My father fixes the car. (fix-fixes)
 - A bee buzzes. (buzz-buzzes)

c. For verbs that end in a consonant + Y, eliminate Y and add **-IES**. For example:

- The princess marries the charming prince. (marry-marries)
- José studies hard. (study-studies)
- The horse carries heavy bags. (carry-carries)

LOOK OUT! If the verb ends in a vowel + Y, just add **-S**. For example:

- Mario plays soccer every day. (play – plays)
- Sarah enjoys being at home. (enjoy – enjoys)

Negative sentences

To make negative sentences in present simple, use the words called “auxiliary verbs” **DON'T** and **DOESN'T** with all verbs, except the verb “be” and modal verbs such as can, could, should, etc. The order is as follows:

Subject	Auxiliary verb	Verb	Complement
I	don't	like	comic books.
She	doesn't	live	in Veracruz.
They	don't	work	at home.

Pay attention to the use of **DON'T** and **DOESN'T**.

- Place it, between the subject and the verb. For example:
He doesn't work every day.
- Use **DON'T** when the subject is **WE**, **YOU** or **THEY**. For example:
They don't live in an apartment.
- Use **DOESN'T** when the subject is **HE**, **SHE** or **IT**. For example:
It doesn't rain in summer.

LOOK OUT! Observe that when using doesn't you don't need to add **-s**, **es**, or **ies** to the verbs in third person. For example: Correct: “She doesn't work.” Incorrect: “She doesn't works.”

DON'T is the same as **DO NOT**. **DOESN'T** is the same as **DOES NOT**. There is no change in meaning, contractions are usually used in spoken English.

Interrogative sentences

To make questions in simple present, use the auxiliary verbs DO and DOES. These words don't have any meaning in Spanish, but they are necessary to show your asking a question. Place them at the beginning of a sentence. Look at the following table:

Auxiliary verb	Subject	Verb	Complement	Short answer positive	Short answer negative
Do	I	like	comic books?	Yes, I do.	No, I don't.
Does	she	live	in Veracruz?	Yes, she does.	No, she doesn't.
Do	they	work	at home?	Yes, they do.	No, they don't.

As in negative sentences, you don't need to add **-s**, **-es** or **-ies** to the verb when referring to the third person **he**, **she**, or **it**. Also, observe that in short answers you usually reply using the same auxiliary verb as in the question. These questions are called **YES / NO** questions since the answer is closed.

When writing open questions, use WH- words. In this case, place the question word before the auxiliary verb:

Wh - word	Auxiliary verb	Subject	Verb	Complement
Why	do	you	like	comic books?
Who	does	she	live with	in Veracruz?
When	do	they	work	at home?