

Simple Present



Simple Present has different uses. Today we will review two main uses.

1. We use the Simple Present tense when we talk about general facts, or when it happens regularly (as a routine). Depending on the person, the Simple Present tense is formed by adding an “s” or “es” to the end of the principal verb on the third person (he, she it). Examples:

(Facts or things happening)

- a) I **feel** great!
- b) Terry **loves** sushi.

(habitual actions or occurrences).

- a) Caroline **practices** the piano every day.
- b) Ms. Johnson **travels** every summer.
- c) They **go** to school every day.



Notice we add “s or “es” just in the third person. The rest of the pronoun forms keep the basic form of the verb.

First-person singular: *I write*

Second-person singular: *You write*

Third-person singular: *He/she/it writes* (note the -s)

First-person plural: *We write*

Third-person plural: *They write*

For a few verbs, the third-person singular ends with **-es** instead of **-s**. Typically, these are verbs whose root form ends in **o**, **ch**, **sh**, **th**, **ss**, **gh**, or **z**.

First-person singular: *I go*

Third-person singular: *He/she/it goes* (note the **-es**)

Third-person plural: *They go*

Simple Present Negative

In negative form and questions, we need to use an auxiliary (**do does**). The formula for making a simple present verb negative is **do/does + not + [basic form of verb]**. You can also use the contraction **don't** or **doesn't** instead of **do not** or **does not**. Examples:

- a) Betty does not want to share her sandwich.
- b) She doesn't think there is enough beer for the party.

Questions

The formula for asking a question in the simple present is:

Do/does + [subject] + [basic form of verb] + C?

a) What **does** Mr. Bean **do**?

b) How much **does** Pauline **like** **sushi**?

Expressions of Time

At the beginning of this document we explained that the Simple Present is commonly used to talk about routines or things that we do every day. The expressions of time are words used to express how often an action happens.

Adverbs of definite frequency.

They explain you clearly the period of time. They go at the end of the sentence.

Not definite frequency

They are less specific and they go before a main verb or after to be.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR **HOW OFTEN?** ADVERBS OF DEFINITE FREQUENCY **Woodward!**

How often? = I want to know the frequency
Example: How often do you brush your teeth?

Number	Times	A	Time Period	Time Period
Once*	a	day		daily
Twice*	a	week		weekly
Three times	a	month		monthly
Four times	a	year		annually

EVERY	Number	Time Period	EVERY	Time Period
Every	two	days	Every	day
Every	three	weeks	Every	week
Every	four	months	Every	month

* She visits the dentist **twice a year**.
 - He goes to the gym **three times a week**.
 - I call her **daily** to make sure she is fine.
 - There is a leap day **every four years**.
 - We pay our mortgage **every month**.

* **one time** ✗
once ✓
two times ✗
twice ✓

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ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

— **always**

"I always drink coffee before 09:00."

— **usually**

"I am usually late for meetings."

— **normally**

"What time do you normally go to bed?"

— **frequently**

"I frequently go out at weekends."

— **often**

"We often play football on Sundays."

— **sometimes**

"Sometimes I play poker with my friends."

— **occasionally**

"She occasionally watches French films."

— **seldom**

"I seldom do my homework."

— **rarely**

"I rarely go to the gym."

— **hardly ever**

"I hardly ever read the newspaper."

never

"I never listen to what he says."

POSITION: - before main verb
 - after 'to be'
 - 'sometimes' is usually used at the beginning,
 but it can be used before the main verb also.