Simple Present



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

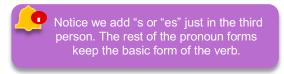
1. We use the Simple Present tense when we talk about general facts, or when it happens regularly (as a routine). Depending on the person, the Simple Present tense is formed by adding an "s" or "es" to the end of the principal verb on the third person (he, she it). Examples:

(Facts or things happening)

- a) I feel great!
- b) Terry <u>loves</u> sushi.

(habitual actions or occurrences).

- a) Caroline <u>practices</u> the piano every day.
- b) Ms. Johnson $\underline{travels}$ every summer.
- c) They **go** to school every day.



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:

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

a) What does Mr. Bean do?

b) How much does Pauline like sushi?
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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.



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.