

Present Simple

Present Simple - Introduction

- Present simple is usually the first tense that is learned.
- However, this does not mean that it is only used in simple situations.
- The present simple tense has many uses, even in advanced language.
- Strangely, it is not used for describing actions that are happening *now*.

Present Simple - Usage

- Present simple is used for
 - habits
 - repeated actions
 - unchanging situations
 - instructions
 - general truths
 - fixed arrangements

Present Simple - Formation

- Positive:
 - subject + conjugated verb I like ice-cream.
- Negative:
 - subject + do/does not + infinitive (without 'to') We don't like ice-cream.
- Question:
 - do/does + subject + infinitive (without 'to') Does she like ice-cream?
- Negative question:
 - do/does not + subject + infinitive (without 'to') Doesn't he like ice-cream?

Present Simple – Examples #1

- habits

- I drink coffee at breakfast.

- I smoke.

- repeated actions

- Every year we go on holiday to Spain.

- I get the bus to work every day.

- unchanging situations

- He works in Washington.

- They speak fluent French.

Present Simple – Examples #2

- instructions

- You go to the end of the road and then you turn right.
- Pour the contents into cold water and stir for two minutes.

- general truths and zero conditionals

- The Earth goes around the Sun.
- If you heat ice, it melts.

- fixed arrangements

- The exam starts at 14:00.
- We leave tomorrow at 6 o'clock.