

TENSES PART – 1

SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Tenses are used to indicate action that has taken place in the past, present, and future. Tenses are of twelve types. There are four forms of tenses in each one of the three tenses. Therefore, there are 12 tenses in total. They are

Present Tense:

1. Simple Present Tense
2. Present Continuous Tense
3. Present Perfect Tense
4. Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Past Tense:

5. Simple Past Tense
6. Past Continuous Tense
3. Past Perfect Tense
4. Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Future Tense:

1. Simple Future Tense
2. Future Continuous Tense
3. Future Perfect Tense
4. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Simple present tense indicates that an action is present, now, relative to the speaker or writer. It is used to describe

- ✓ Habitual action
- ✓ Unchanging situations
- ✓ Generalizations
- ✓ Fixed arrangements
- ✓ Scheduled events in the near future

We use the simple present tense when an action is happening right now, or when it happens regularly. The simple present tense is simple to form. Depending on the person, the simple present tense is formed by using the base form or by adding -s or -es to the end of the verb.

USAGE OF PRESENT TENSE

1. something that is true in the present.

✓ **Examples:**

I'm nineteen years old.

He lives in London.

2. To express habits, repeated actions or unchanging situations, emotions and wishes in the present.

✓ **Examples:**

unchanging situation: I work in London

Habit: I get up early every day.

3. We use words like sometimes, often, always, after, when, before, as soon as, until and never with the present tense to express future time.

✓ **Examples:**

I sometimes go to the cinema.

She never plays football.

4. something that is always true

✓ **Examples:**

The adult human body contains 206 bones.

The colour of the blood is red.

A dog has four legs.

5. something that is fixed in the present or future.

✓ **Examples:**

Your exam starts at 09.00

It rains a lot in winter.

We fly to London next week.

6. To give instructions or directions

✓ **Examples:**

You walk for 10 meters, then you turn left.

Open the packet and pour the contents into hot water.

7. With future constructions

✓ **Examples:**

She'll see you before she leaves.

We'll give it to her when she arrives.

Note: The simple present tense is not used to express actions happening now.

FORMING THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE:

We form the present tense using the base form of the infinitive (without the **to**). In general, in the third person we add 'S' in the third person.

Example: The simple present tense is formed using the **to speak** as follows:

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I speak	Do I speak?	I do not speak
You speak	Do you speak?	You do not speak
He speaks	Does he speak?	He does not speak
She speaks	Does she speak?	She does not speak
It speaks	Does it speak?	It does not speak
We speak	Do we speak?	We do not speak.
They speak	Do they speak?	They do not speak.

The spelling for the verb in the third person differs depending on the ending of that verb.

1. For verbs that end in **-o, -ch, -sh, -ss, -x, or -z** we add **-es** in the third person.

Examples:

- ◆ go - goes
- ◆ catch - catches
- ◆ wash - washes
- ◆ kiss - kisses
- ◆ fix - fixes
- ◆ buzz - buzzes

2. For verbs that end in a consonant **-y**, we remove the **y** and add **-ies**.

Examples:

- ◆ marry - marries
- ◆ study - studies
- ◆ carry - carries
- ◆ worry - worries

3. For verbs that end in a vowel **-y**, we just add **-s**.

Examples:

- ◆ play - plays
- ◆ enjoy - enjoys
- ◆ say - says

With the present tense, we use **do** and **does** to make questions. We use **does** for the third person such as she, he, it and we use **do** for the others. We use **do** and **does** with question words like where, what and why.

Examples:

Where do you live?

Does Ram play football?

Where does he come from?

Do Reena and Meena live in Paris?

Where do they work?

Forming the Simple Present Negative:

The formula for making a simple present verb negative is

do/does + not + root form of verb

You can also use the contraction don't or doesn't instead of do not or does not.

Examples:

I like tennis, but I don't like football. (don't = do not)

I don't live in London now.

I don't play the piano, but I play the guitar.

They don't work at the weekend.

Things to remember about the simple present tense:

1. In the interrogative forms, we use **do** or **does**.

Examples:

Do you like the house?

Does she go to school?

2. Verbs never take an 's' in the negative and interrogative forms.

Examples:

Does he speak Spanish?

Do they play tennis?

She doesn't like chocolate.

3. **don't** is the short form of **do not**. We can say either **don't** or **do not**.

Examples:

I do not speak Italian **or**

I don't speak Italian.

4. **doesn't** is the short form of **does not**. We can say either **doesn't** or **does not**.

Examples:

He does not listen to jazz music **or**

He doesn't listen to jazz music.

5. Present tense habitual activities are frequently identified by time expressions from one of the following words are:

- always
- never
- often
- rarely
- usually
- all the time
- every class
- every day
- every holiday
- every hour
- every month
- every semester
- every week
- every year
- sometimes
- most of the time