



Present simple: affirmative and negative

Affirmative	Negative
I stay in bed late. He / She / It stays in bed late. You / We / They stay in bed late.	I don't stay in bed late. He / She / It doesn't stay in bed late. You / We / They don't stay in bed late.

The affirmative form is the base form of the verb (infinitive without *to*). To make the third person singular (*he, she, it*), we add *-s* / *-es*. Some verbs take *-ies*.

Most verbs	add <i>-s</i> meet → meets play → plays spend → spends stay → stays
Verbs ending in a consonant + <i>-y</i>	drop the <i>y</i> and add <i>-ies</i> carry → carries copy → copies fly → flies study → studies
Verbs ending in <i>o, ch, sh, x</i> and <i>ss</i>	add <i>-es</i> go → goes watch → watches finish → finishes fix → fixes miss → misses

We make the negative form with *do not* or *does not* and the base form of the verb.

In spoken and informal written English, we use short forms in the negative.

She does not draw. → *She doesn't draw.*

We do not bake. → *We don't bake.*

Usage

We use the present simple

- to describe things which happen regularly or all the time.
We finish school at 3:30.
My cousin plays video games every day.
I don't spend a lot of time on my phone.
- to describe permanent situations.
My aunt comes from Australia.
We live in the countryside.
Esin and Fatma speak Turkish and German.
- to give opinions.
I like football and basketball.
We think this TV programme is interesting.
I don't like fast-food restaurants.

We often use the present simple with adverbs of frequency.

He always does his homework.

You never stay in bed late.

100% —————→ 0%
always usually often sometimes never

Adverbs of frequency describe how often something happens.

He is often late for school.

I've always got my phone with me.

They don't usually play video games.

Adverbs of frequency go in a different position with *be*, *have got* and all other verbs e.g. *play*, *watch* or *stay*.

	Verb	Position
Affirmative	<i>be</i> <i>have got</i> other verbs	after the verb between <i>have</i> and <i>got</i> before the verb
Negative	<i>be</i> <i>have got</i> other verbs	after the verb between <i>have</i> and <i>got</i> between <i>don't</i> / <i>doesn't</i> and the verb
Questions	<i>be</i> <i>have got</i> other verbs	after the subject between the subject and <i>got</i> before the verb

Present simple: questions

Questions	Short answers	
	Affirmative	Negative
Do I collect things?	Yes, I do.	No, I don't.
Does he / she / it collect things?	Yes, he / she / it does.	No, he / she / it doesn't.
Do you / we / they collect things?	Yes, you / we / they do.	No, you / we / they don't.

We make the question form with *Do* or *Does* plus subject plus the base form of the verb.

We make short answers with *do* or *does* in the affirmative and *don't* or *doesn't* in the negative.

The question words *Who*, *What*, *When*, *Why*, *How*, *How often*, *How much* and *What time* go before *do* / *does*.

What time do you finish school?

Where does Pavel live?

How often do they go to the park?