

Simple Present Tense

What is Simple Present Tense?

The simple present tense is used when stating

- (1) habits,
- (2) objective truths,
- (3) actions that happen regularly,
- (4) giving instructions and
- (5) mentioning fixed arrangements.

Example

Habits	Uncle Joe smokes.
Objective truths	Water boils at 100°C.
Actions that happen regularly	I do the homework every Friday.
Giving instructions	Press the button to turn on the computer.
Fixed arrangements	The airplane takes off ten minutes later.

How to form the simple present tense?

1. Positive Form

First person singular	I	love	cats.
Second person singular	You	love	cats.
Third person singular	He/She/It	loves	cats.
First person plural	We	love	cats.
Second person plural	You	love	cats.
Third person plural	They	love	cats.

In most situations, the verb used under the positive simple present tense remains in its root form (原式).

However, when we start a sentence with he/she/it, the verb should end in **-s**.

Exceptions where verbs end in **-es**, instead of **-s**

Words that end in...	Examples
o	Go(goes), do(does)
ch	Catch(catches), watch(watches), touch(touches), teach(teaches)
sh	Wash(washes), wish(wishes), splash(splashes)
x	Relax(relaxes), fix(fixes)
ss	Bless(blesses), assess(assesses), miss(misses)
z	Buzz(buzzes)

When a verb ends with a **consonant + y**, we **take away -y** and **add -ies**.

When a verb ends with a **vowel + y**, we can directly **add -s**.

Consonant + y	Cry(cries), try(tries), fly(flies), study(studies), apply(applyes), copy(copies), dry(dries), carry(carries), fry(fries)
Vowel + y (Vowels: a, e, i, o, u)	Play(plays), pay(pays), obey(obeys), enjoy(enjoys), annoy(annoys), employ(employs), destroy(destroys)

Other special irregular verbs (commonly used)

Be		
I	am	happy.
He/She/It	is	happy.
You/We/They	are	happy.
Have		
I	have	a dog.
He/She/It	has	a dog.
You/We/They	have	a dog.

2. Negative Form

First person singular	I	do not (don't)	love cats.
Second person singular	You	do not (don't)	love cats.
Third person singular	He/She/It	does not (doesn't)	love cats.
First person plural	We	do not (don't)	love cats.
Second person plural	You	do not (don't)	love cats.
Third person plural	They	do not (don't)	love cats.

In all situations, the verb after don't/doesn't remains in its root form under negative simple present tense.

We use do not(don't) after I/You/We/They and does not(doesn't) after He/She/It.

3. Asking Questions

First person singular	Do	I	have to?
Second person singular	Do	You	have to?
Third person singular	Does	He/She/It	have to?
First person plural	Do	We	have to?
Second person plural	Do	You	have to?
Third person plural	Do	They	have to?

In all situations, when asking questions in simple present tense, the verb after the pronoun remain in its root form.

We use **Do** before I/You/We/They and **Does** before He/She/It.