

When should we use the simple present tense?

Now we know how to make the present simple sentences. We use simple present tense in several different situations.

Use 1: Repeated Actions

Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or regular. The action can be a daily event, a habit, a hobby, a scheduled event or something that often happens.

- I walk to work every day.
- When **does** the train usually leave?
- Ram speaks English very well.
- Tom lives in India

Use 2 Facts or Generalizations

We use the Simple Present for statements that are always true:

- We come from Switzerland.
- Summer follows spring.
- The moon travels around the earth.

Use 3 Future reference

This use is often related to timetables and events in the calendar

- The train leaves tonight at 6 PM.
- The concert begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.30.
- The party starts at 8 o'clock.

Use 4 Observations and declarations

We commonly use the Simple Present with other verbs to make observations and declarations in the course of conversation:

- I hope/assume/suppose/promise everything will be all right.
- I declare this exhibition open.

Verb Conjugation & Spelling

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.

Subject	Verb	The Rest of the sentence
I	spea <u>k</u>	English at home
you	spea <u>k</u>	English at home
He/she/it	spea <u>ks</u>	English at home
We	spea <u>k</u>	English at home
You	spea <u>k</u>	English at home
They	spea <u>k</u>	English at home

The verb to do is very important for the present simple especially for questions and negative sentences

Subject	Verb	The Rest of the sentence
I	do	my homework
you	do	your homework
He/she/it	does	his/her/ homework
We	do	our homework
You	do	your homework
They	do	their homework

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.

- 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**.

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

NOTE: For verbs that end in a **vowel + Y**, we just add **-S**.

- play – plays
- enjoy – enjoys
- say – says

Negative Sentences in the Simple Present Tense

To make a negative sentence in English we normally use Don't or Doesn't with all verbs EXCEPT **To Be** and **Modal verbs** (can, might, should etc.).

- Affirmative: You speak French.
Negative: You **don't** speak French.

You will see that we add **don't** between the subject and the verb. We use **Don't** when the subject is **I, you, we** or **they**.

- Affirmative: He speaks German.
Negative: He **doesn't** speak German.

When the subject is **he, she** or **it**, we add **doesn't** between the subject and the verb to make a negative sentence. Notice that the letter **S** at the end of the verb in the affirmative sentence (because it is in third person) disappears in the negative sentence. We will see the reason why below.

Negative Contractions

Don't = Do not

Doesn't = Does not

I **don't** like meat = I **do not** like meat.

There is no difference in meaning though we normally use contractions in spoken English

Word Order of Negative Sentences

- The following is the word order to construct a basic negative sentence in English in the Present Tense using **Don't** or **Doesn't**.

Subject	don't/doesn't	Verb*	The Rest of the sentence
I	don't	have / buy eat / like etc.	cereal for breakfast
You	don't		
He / She / It	doesn't		
We	don't		
You	don't		
They	don't		

- Be careful of the verb have-in the positive or affirmative it is "he/she/it has cereal for breakfast but in the negative and in a question you use have

Examples of Negative Sentences with Don't and Doesn't:

- You **don't** speak Arabic.
- John **doesn't** speak Italian.
- We **don't** have time for a rest.
- It **doesn't** move.
- They **don't** want to go to the party.
- She **doesn't** like fish.

Questions in the Simple Present Tense

- Affirmative: You speak English.
Question: **Do** you speak English?
- Affirmative: He speaks French.
Question: **Does** he speak French?

Word Order of Questions with Do and Does

- The following is the word order to construct a basic question in English using **Do** or **Does**.

Do/Does	Subject	Verb*	The Rest of the sentence
Do	I	have / need want etc.	a new bike?
Do	you		
Does	He/she/it		
Do	we		
Do	you		
Do	they		

Examples of Questions with Do and Does:

- Do** you need a dictionary?
- Does** Mary need a dictionary?
- Do** we have a meeting now?
- Does** it rain a lot in winter?
- Do** they want to go to the party?
- Does** he like pizza?