

Simple Present

FORM

[VERB] + s/es in third person

Examples:

- You **speak** English.
- She **speaks** English.
- **Does** she **speak** English?
- **Do** you **speak** English?
- She **does not speak** English.
- You **do not speak** English.

Simple Present Forms

- Most verbs conjugate like the verb "run" below. Notice how you add an "s" to third-person forms. Third-person negative forms and third-person questions are made using "does."

Positive

- I run.
- You run.
- We run.
- They run.
- He runs.
- She runs.
- It runs.

Negative

- I do not run.
- You do not run.
- We do not run.
- They do not run.
- He does not run.
- She does not run.
- It does not run.

Question

- Do I run?
- Do you run?
- Do we run?
- Do they run?
- Does he run?
- Does she run?
- Does it run?

Instead of "s," "es" is added to positive, third-person forms of verbs ending with the following **sounds**: /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/ or /ʒ/.

These special "es"-forms have been marked below with an asterisk*.

Positive

- I **rush**.
- You **rush**.
- We **rush**.
- They **rush**.
- He **rushes**. *
- She **rushes**. *
- It **rushes**. *

Negative

- I **do not rush**.
- You **do not rush**.
- We **do not rush**.
- They **do not rush**.
- He **does not rush**.
- She **does not rush**.
- It **does not rush**.

Question

- **Do I rush?**
- **Do you rush?**
- **Do we rush?**
- **Do they rush?**
- **Does he rush?**
- **Does she rush?**
- **Does it rush?**

The verb "have" is irregular in positive, third-person forms. This irregular form has been marked below with an asterisk*.

Positive	Negative	Question
I have.	I do not have.	Do I have?
You have.	You do not have.	Do you have?
We have.	We do not have.	Do we have?
They have.	They do not have.	Do they have?
He has. *	He does not have.	Does he have?
She has. *	She does not have.	Does she have?
It has. *	It does not have.	Does it have?

The verb "be" is irregular in the Simple Present. It also has different question forms and negative forms.

Positive	Negative	Question
I am.	I am not.	Am I?
You are.	You are not.	Are you?
We are.	We are not.	Are we?
They are.	They are not.	Are they?
He is.	He is not.	Is he?
She is.	She is not.	Is she?
It is.	It is not.	Is it?

USE 1 Repeated Actions

- Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

Examples:

- I **play** tennis.
- She **does not play** tennis.
- **Does** he **play** tennis?
- The train **leaves** every morning at 8 AM.
- The train **does not leave** at 9 AM.
- When **does** the train usually **leave**?
- She always **forgets** her purse.
- He never **forgets** his wallet.
- Every twelve months, the Earth **circles** the Sun.
- **Does** the Sun **circle** the Earth?

USE 2 Facts or Generalisations

- The Simple Present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Examples:

- Cats **like** milk.
- Birds **do not like** milk.
- **Do** pigs **like** milk?
- California **is** in America.
- California **is not** in the United Kingdom.
- Windows **are** made of glass.
- Windows **are not** made of wood.
- New York **is** a small city.
(It is not important that this fact is untrue)

USE 3 Scheduled Events in the Near Future

- Speakers occasionally use Simple Present to talk about scheduled events in the near future. This is most commonly done when talking about public transportation, but it can be used with other scheduled events as well.

Examples:

- The train **leaves** tonight at 6 PM.
- The bus **does not arrive** at 11 AM, it **arrives** at 11 PM.
- When **do** we **board** the plane?
- The party **starts** at 8 o'clock.
- When **does** class **begin** tomorrow?

ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You **only** speak English.
- Do you **only** speak English?

The ending –s / -es

- We generally add –s to the verb in the 3rd person singular.
- EXCEPT:
- Verbs ending in –ch, -sh, -s, -x, -z → -es
E.g. watches, finishes, kisses, faxes, buzzes
- Go and do
- Verbs ending in consonant + y → -ies
E.g. carries, tries
- Irregular verbs: is / has / can

The sounds /s/, /z/, and /iz/

- You pronounce the ending /iz/ if the verb ends in one of the following sounds: /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ʒ/

E.g. misses, pleases, washes, preaches, changes

- If the verb ends in any other voiceless consonant sound (/p/, /k/, /f/, /θ/ and /t/), you pronounce the ending /s/

E.g. stops, parks, laughs, puts

- If the verb ends in any other voiced consonant sound or a vowel sound, you pronounce the ending /z/

E.g. plays, lives, wins, begs, falls, fades