



tense



comparative



Aa



noun



ENGLISH

FOR EVERYONE

ENGLISH GRAMMAR GUIDE



conditional



negative



verb



A COMPREHENSIVE VISUAL REFERENCE

ENGLISH

FOR EVERYONE

ENGLISH GRAMMAR GUIDE



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01

The present simple

The present simple is used to make simple statements of fact, to talk about things that happen repeatedly, and to describe things that are always true.

See also:

Present continuous **4** Present for future events **19** Adverbs of frequency **102**

1.1 THE PRESENT SIMPLE

To make the present simple of most verbs, use the base form (the infinitive without "to").

I **eat** lunch at noon every day.

The base form of the verb "to eat."

Adverbs of frequency are often used with the present simple.



She **eats** lunch at 2pm every day.

With "he," "she," and "it," add "-s" to the base form.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

We **drink** coffee every morning.



She **drinks** coffee every morning.



We **start** work at 9am.



He **starts** work at 11am.



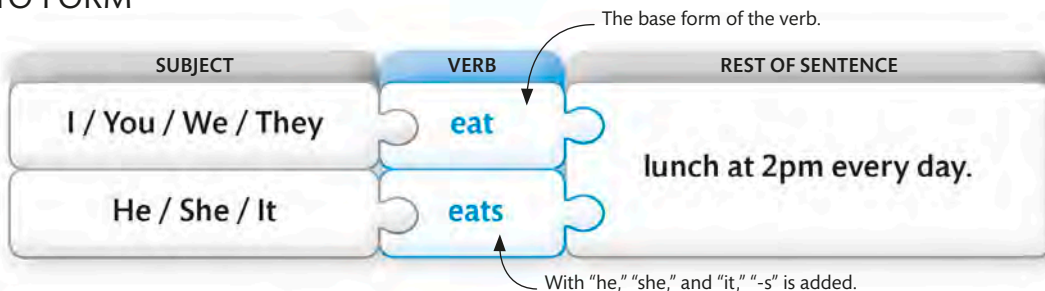
They **leave** work at 5pm.



Rob **leaves** work at 7pm.



HOW TO FORM



1.2 "-S" AND "-ES" ENDINGS

With some verbs, "-es" is added for "he," "she," and "it."
These include verbs ending with "-sh," "-ch," "-o," "-ss," "-x," and "-z."

I **go** to bed.

He **goes** to bed.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-o."

I **finish** work.

He **finishes** work.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-sh."

I **watch** TV.

She **watches** TV.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-ch."

I **cross** the road.

She **crosses** the road.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-ss."

I **fix** cars.

She **fixes** cars.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-x."

Their phones **buzz** all day.

His phone **buzzes** all day.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-z."

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Tom **does** the dishes every evening.



He **washes** the windows on Fridays.



She **teaches** English to six students.



He **blushes** when he's embarrassed.



COMMON MISTAKES FORMING THE PRESENT SIMPLE

When the present simple is used with "he," "she," "it," or one person's name, it always ends in "-s" or "-es."

An "s" is added to the base form "start."

He **starts** work at 11am. ✓

He **start** work at 11am. ✗

"Start" without an "s" is only used for "I," "you," "we," and "they."

There is no need to add the auxiliary verb "do" when forming the present simple. It is only used to form questions and negatives.

I **eat** lunch at noon every day. ✓

I **do eat** lunch at noon every day. ✗

"Do" is only used as an auxiliary verb when forming negatives or questions.

1.3 "BE" IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

"Be" is an important verb with an irregular present simple form.



I am 25 years old.



You are a chef.



He is happy.

"Are" also follows "we" and "they."

"Is" also follows "she" and "it."

HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT	"BE"	REST OF SENTENCE
I	am	happy.
You	are	
He / She / It	is	
We / They	are	

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I am a doctor.



Contractions can also be used.

We're late for work.



They are students.



He's American.



My grandma is 92 years old.



Ruby's seven years old.



1.4 "HAVE" IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

"Have" is an irregular verb. The third person singular form is "has" not "haves."

I have a garage.



"Has" is used for the third person singular: "he," "she," and "it."

She has a yard.



HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT	"HAVE"	OBJECT
I You We They	have	a garage.
He She It	has	

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I have a car.



The cat has a new collar.



You have a sister.



He has a cold.



I have a painful back.



Thomas has a driving lesson today.



They have the same dress.



Jack has a bad headache.



They have a new baby.



Sarah has coffee with Tom every Tuesday.



02 The present simple negative

To make negative sentences using "be" in the present simple, "not" is added after the verb. For other verbs, the auxiliary verb "do not" or "does not" is used.

See also:

Present simple 1 Present overview 5
Types of verbs 49

2.1 NEGATIVES WITH THE VERB "BE"

The verb "be" takes the same form in positive and negative sentences. The only difference is adding "not."

I am a farmer. I am not a doctor.



HOW TO FORM



2.2 NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS

"Is not" and "are not" can be contracted in two ways. The subject and verb can be contracted, or the verb and "not." They mean the same thing.

You are not a doctor.
↓
"You are" becomes "you're."
You're not
You aren't
"Are not" becomes "aren't."
} a doctor.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I'm not a teacher.

↖ "I amn't" is incorrect.

He's not
He isn't } a farmer.

They're not
They aren't } American.

2.3 NEGATIVES WITH OTHER VERBS IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

For verbs other than "be," "do not" or "does not" goes before the verb to make the negative.

I **work** outside.

I **do not work** outside.



He **works** inside.

He **does not work** inside.



Verb in base form.

HOW TO FORM



The base form is used no matter what the subject is.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



You **do not have** a computer.

We **don't start** work at 8am.



He **does not live** in Los Angeles.

He **doesn't have** a car.



This is the contracted form of "does not."

⚠ COMMON MISTAKES FORMING NEGATIVE SENTENCES

The main verb in a negative sentence always stays in its base form, even if the subject is "he," "she," or "it."

He **does not work** outside. ✓

He does not **works** outside. ✗

03 Present simple questions

Questions in the present simple with "be" are formed by swapping the verb and subject. For other verbs, the auxiliary verb "do" or "does" must be added before the subject.

See also:

Present simple 1 Forming questions 34

Question words 35 Open questions 36

3.1 QUESTIONS WITH "BE" IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

To form questions in the present simple using "be," reverse the order of the subject and the verb.

In a statement, the subject comes before the verb.
You are Canadian.

Are you Canadian?

In a question, the verb moves to the start of the sentence.

The subject comes after the verb.



HOW TO FORM

"BE"	SUBJECT	REST OF SENTENCE
Am	I	Canadian?
Is	he / she / it	
Are	you / we / they	

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Am I on time? An icon showing two people standing, with one person holding a clock.

Is he your brother? An icon showing a man and a woman standing together.

Question words can be used before the verb to form open questions.
Where are we? An icon showing two people standing, with one person holding a map.

Am I on the list? An icon showing a person holding a list and another person standing.

Is it time to leave? An icon showing a person sitting at a desk with a clock, and another person standing.

Are they friendly? An icon showing a person walking a dog, with another person standing nearby.

3.2 QUESTIONS WITH "DO" AND "DOES"

For questions with verbs other than "be," start the question with "do" or "does." Don't swap the subject and the main verb.

You work in an office.

Do you work in an office?

Add "do" to questions with "I," "you," "we," and "they."

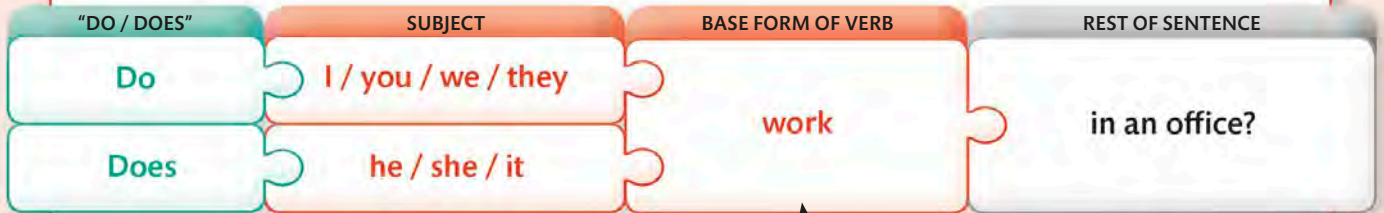
She works in a school.

Does she work in a school?

Add "does" to questions with "he," "she," and "it."

The main verb goes in its base form.

HOW TO FORM



The verb never takes an "-s" or "-es" when you ask a question.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Do they live in Paris?



Do you usually finish work at 4pm?



Does Tom get up at 6am?



When does the party start?



Question words can be used before "do" or "does" to form open questions.

COMMON MISTAKES FORMING PRESENT SIMPLE QUESTIONS

Never add "-s" or "-es" to the base form of the verb when asking a question, even in the third person singular ("he," "she," or "it").

Does he finish work on time? ✓

The main verb always goes in its base form in questions.

Does he finishes work on time? ✗

Do not add "-s" or "-es" to the main verb when asking a question.