

The Present Simple Tense (also called the Simple Present Tense)

Simple present tense with 'be':

The verb 'be' is different from the other verbs in this tense. Let's look at 'be' first:

Here's the positive form (positive means a normal sentence, not a negative or a question. This is sometimes called 'affirmative'):

Positive	Positive Short Form
I am	I'm
you are	you're
he is	he's
she is	she's
it is	it's
we are	we're
they are	they're

For example:

- I'm Scottish.
- She's hungry.
- They're always late.

Next, here's the negative. It's very easy. You only add 'not':

Negative	Negative short form
I am not	I'm not
you are not	you aren't
he is not	he isn't
she is not	she isn't
it is not	it isn't
we are not	we aren't
they are not	they aren't

For example:

- I'm not cold.
- He isn't from Spain.
- We aren't at home.

Here's the 'yes / no' question form:

Yes / No Questions
am I ?
are you ?
is he ?
is she ?
is it ?
are we ?
are they ?

For example:

- Am I next in the queue?
- Are you from Tokyo?
- Is he at the library at the moment?

If you'd like to make a 'wh' question, you just put the question word at the front:

Wh Questions
Where am I ?
What are you ?
Why is he ?
Who is she ?
When are we ?
How are they ?

For example:

- Where are you from?
- Who is that girl?
- Why are they still at work?

Present simple tense with other verbs:

With all other verbs, we make the present simple in the same way.

The positive is really easy. It's just the verb, with an extra 's' if the subject is 'he', 'she', or 'it'. Let's take the verb 'play' as an example:

Positive (of 'play')
I play
you play
he plays
she plays
it plays
we play
they play

For example:

- I play tennis every week.
- He likes chocolate.
- They usually go to the cinema on Fridays.

Don't forget the 's'! Even really advanced students do this!

For a few verbs, there is a spelling change with 'he', 'she' and 'it' before the 's'. For example, 'study' becomes 'studies'. (See spelling changes PDF for more information).

There are also few verbs which are irregular in the present simple:

- 'have' becomes 'has'
- 'do' becomes 'does'
- 'go' becomes 'goes'

To make the negative form, you need to use 'do not' (don't) or 'does not' (doesn't):

Negative (of 'play')	Negative Short Form
I do not play	I don't play
you do not play	you don't play
he does not play	he doesn't play
she does not play	she doesn't play
it does not play	it doesn't play
we do not play	we don't play
they do not play	they don't play

For example:

- You don't study very much.
- Julie doesn't like sport.
- We don't live in London.

We use 'do' or 'does' before the subject to make the 'yes / no' question:

Yes / No questions
do I play ?
do you play ?
does he play ?
does she play ?
does it play ?
do we play ?
do they play ?

For example:

- Do you work in an office?
- Does John play cricket every weekend?
- Do they like travelling?

Just like with 'be', if you'd like to make a 'wh' question, you put the question word at the front:

Wh Questions
Where do I play ?
What do you play ?
Why does he play ?
Who does she play ?
When do we play ?
How do they play ?

For example:

- Where do you live?
- What does she like to eat?
- Why do they work so hard?