

Simple Present

FORM

[VERB] + s/es in third person

Examples:

- You **speak** English.
- **Do** you **speak** English?
- You **do not speak** English.

Complete List of Simple Present Forms

USE 1 Repeated Actions

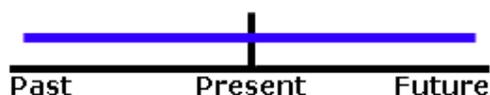


Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

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 Generalizations



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?

USE 4 Now (Non-Continuous Verbs)



Speakers sometimes use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with Non-Continuous Verbs and certain Mixed Verbs.

Examples:

- I **am** here now.
- She **is not** here now.
- He **needs** help right now.
- He **does not need** help now.
- He **has** his passport in his hand.
- **Do** you **have** your passport with you?

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?

ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Once a week, Tom **cleans** the car. *ACTIVE*
- Once a week, the car **is cleaned** by Tom. *PASSIVE*

More About Active / Passive Forms