

# THE SIMPLE PRESENT

## ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,  
Exercises

## LANGUAGE FOCUS

The simple present

## AIM

To learn and practice the simple  
present

## LEVEL

Beginner, Elementary,  
Intermediate

## TIME

60 Min

## INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn the simple present in English

## PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

## PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.  
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

## WRAPUP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.

Thank them for coming to the lesson.

# The Simple Present

## Uses of the simple present tense

The Simple Present is one of four present tenses in English, and is used in various ways. In the examples given below, the verbs in the Simple Present tense are underlined.

For instance, the Simple Present can be used to refer to actions which occur at regular intervals.

e.g. We visit our friends every Sunday.

They take a holiday once a year.

Geese fly south every fall.

The Simple Present is also used in stating general truths.

e.g. Gas expands when heated.

The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world.

Canada lies north of the United States.

In addition, the Simple Present is used when referring to printed material, and when describing events portrayed in a book, film, or other work of art.

e.g. The report presents the information clearly.

At the end of the film, the hero finds the hidden treasure.

Occasionally, the Simple Present is used to express actions occurring in the future or the past.

e.g. Our plane leaves at eight o'clock tomorrow night.

Burglar Steals Valuable Paintings

In the first example, the Simple Present is used to refer to something which will happen in the future. In the second example, which is written in the style of a newspaper headline, the Simple Present is used to refer to something which happened in the past.

## Simple Present

### FORM Simple Present

EXAMPLE: [ to run ]

I run

you run

he runs

she runs

it runs

we run

they run

### 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.

The train leaves every morning at 8 am.

The train does not leave at 9am.

She always forgets her purse.

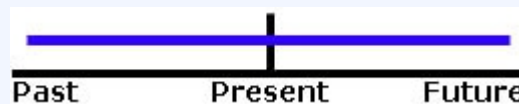
He never forgets his wallet.

Every twelve months, the Earth circles the sun.

The sun does not circle the Earth.

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## 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.

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.)

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### USE 3 Now (Non-Continuous

Verbs) 

Sometimes speakers 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 a car.

## Exercises

### EXERCISE 1.

*Look at Bob's timetable and answer the following questions:*

TIME	ACTION
7.30 a.m.	<i>WAKES UP</i>
8:00 a.m.	<i>GETS UP, WASHES, GETS DRESSED</i>
8:30 a.m.	<i>HAS BACON AND EGGS FOR BREAKFAST</i>
9:00 a.m.	<i>DRIVES TO WORK</i>
9:30 a.m.	<i>STARTS WORKING</i>
11:00 a.m.	<i>GOES FOR A COFFEE WITH HIS COLLEAGUES</i>
1:00 p.m.	<i>HAS LUNCH AT THE IRISH PUB</i>
5:00 p.m.	<i>LEAVES OFFICE</i>
6:00 p.m.	<i>GOES JOGGING</i>
7:00 p.m.	<i>GOES OUT FOR DINNER WITH JANET</i>
10:00 p.m.	<i>WATCHES "HURLING" ON TV</i>
11:30 p.m.	<i>GOES SLEEPING</i>

1. What does Bob do at 8:00 a.m.?

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2. What does Bob have for breakfast?

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3. Does he go for lunch alone?

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4. What does Bob usually do in the afternoon?

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5. Does he go to bed very late at night?

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6. Does he usually go jogging in the morning?

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7. What time does he go out with Janet?

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8. What does he like watching on TV?

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## EXERCISE 3

*Read the dialogue and correct the mistakes.*

John: Hey, Susan! How goes you?

Susan: Fine! I happy today, because it's weekend. I want go to cinema tonight, but I

doesn't know if I can.

John: What not?

Susan: My grandparents and my cousins come to dinner in Saturday nights and so I

have stay in home.

John: Oh well, mind never. Maybe you can goes tomorrow? We can goes together~

there a good horror films on at the Odeon.

Susan: Oh, no, not a horror film! They is horrible~ I don't likes bloods.

John: Really? I love!

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## SIMPLE PRESENT AND PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

*Choose the right answer*

1. Right now Dave is

1. Sleep
2. Sleeps
3. Sleeping

2. They.....to some music on the radio

1. Are listening
2. Listening
3. Listen

3.....in ghosts?

1. Believe you
2. Do you believe
3. Are you believing?

4. Dave,.....this book belong to you?

1. Is

2. Does

3. Are

5. Benjamin,.....to me?

1. Do you listen

2. Are you listening

3. Are you listen?

6. What.....about right now?

1. Do you think

2. Are you thinking

3. Are you thinks

7. My wife Lucy.....breakfast every morning at 7.00

1. Eats
2. Is eating
3. Eat

8. What book.....at the moment?

1. Are you read
2. Are you reading
3. Do you read?