

## Present Simple

### Present Simple Forms

Most regular verbs conjugate like the verb 'to run' below. We add an 's' to the third-person singular form of the verb. Negatives and questions are formed using 'does not' and 'does'.

Positive	Negative	Question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <b>run</b>.</li><li>• You <b>run</b>.</li><li>• He <b>runs</b>.</li><li>• She <b>runs</b>.</li><li>• It <b>runs</b>.</li><li>• We <b>run</b>.</li><li>• You <b>run</b>.</li><li>• They <b>run</b>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <b>do not run</b>.</li><li>• You <b>do not run</b>.</li><li>• He <b>does not run</b>.</li><li>• She <b>does not run</b>.</li><li>• It <b>does not run</b>.</li><li>• We <b>do not run</b>.</li><li>• You <b>do not run</b>.</li><li>• They <b>do not run</b>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Do I run?</b></li><li>• <b>Do you run?</b></li><li>• <b>Does he run?</b></li><li>• <b>Does she run?</b></li><li>• <b>Does it run?</b></li><li>• <b>Do we run?</b></li><li>• <b>Do you run?</b></li><li>• <b>Do they run?</b></li></ul>

Some regular verbs conjugate like the verb 'to rush' below. We add 'es' to the third-person singular form of the verb. These special "es"-forms have been marked below with an asterisk\*.

Positive	Negative	Question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <b>rush</b>.</li><li>• You <b>rush</b>.</li><li>• He <b>rushes</b>.*</li><li>• She <b>rushes</b>.*</li><li>• It <b>rushes</b>.*</li><li>• We <b>rush</b>.</li><li>• You <b>rush</b>.</li><li>• They <b>rush</b>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <b>do not rush</b>.</li><li>• You <b>do not rush</b>.</li><li>• He <b>does not rush</b>.</li><li>• She <b>does not rush</b>.</li><li>• It <b>does not rush</b>.</li><li>• We <b>do not rush</b>.</li><li>• You <b>do not rush</b>.</li><li>• They <b>do not rush</b>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Do I rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Do you rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Does he rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Does she rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Does it rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Do we rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Do you rush?</b></li><li>• <b>Do they rush?</b></li></ul>

Verbs which end with the sound: s, z, sh, ch, j or zs (as in Zsa Zsa) follow this pattern.

When we speak, we use the contractions:

do not = don't // does not = doesn't

We also use contractions for informal writing like emails to friends and colleagues. When you write a formal text, like a job application letter, you **MUST** use full forms.

‘To have’ is an irregular verb because it conjugates differently in the positive, third-person singular form. This irregular form has been marked below with an asterisk\*.

Positive	Negative	Question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>have</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>have</b>.</li> <li>• He <b>has</b>*</li> <li>• She <b>has</b>*</li> <li>• It <b>has</b>*</li> <li>• We <b>have</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>have</b>.</li> <li>• They <b>have</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>do not have</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>do not have</b>.</li> <li>• He <b>does not have</b>.</li> <li>• She <b>does not have</b>.</li> <li>• It <b>does not have</b>.</li> <li>• We <b>do not have</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>do not have</b>.</li> <li>• They <b>do not have</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do I have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Do you have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Does he have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Does she have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Does it have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Do we have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Do you have?</b></li> <li>• <b>Do they have?</b></li> </ul>

‘Have’ can be a main verb (**blue**) as in the sentence:

I **have** a car.

or an auxiliary verb (red) as in the sentence:

I **have been** to France.

When ‘have’ is the main verb, it takes the usual do // does for negatives and questions.

'To be' is an irregular verb. It conjugates differently to other verbs in the positive and also has different negative forms and question forms.

Positive	Negative	Question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>am</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>are</b>.</li> <li>• He <b>is</b>.</li> <li>• She <b>is</b>.</li> <li>• It <b>is</b>.</li> <li>• We <b>are</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>are</b>.</li> <li>• They <b>are</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>am not</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>are not</b>.</li> <li>• He <b>is not</b>.</li> <li>• She <b>is not</b>.</li> <li>• It <b>is not</b>.</li> <li>• We <b>are not</b>.</li> <li>• You <b>are not</b>.</li> <li>• They <b>are not</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Am</b> I?</li> <li>• <b>Are</b> you?</li> <li>• <b>Is</b> he?</li> <li>• <b>Is</b> she?</li> <li>• <b>Is</b> it?</li> <li>• <b>Are</b> we?</li> <li>• <b>Are</b> you?</li> <li>• <b>Are</b> they?</li> </ul>

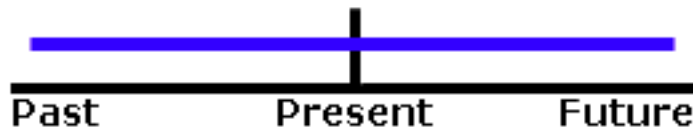
When we speak, we use the contractions:

I am = I'm // you are = you're // he is = he's // she is = she's  
 it is = it's // we are = we're // you are = you're // they are = they're

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  
 you are not = you aren't // they are not = they aren't

We also use contractions for informal writing like emails to friends and colleagues.  
 When you write a formal text, like a job application letter, you **MUST** use full forms.

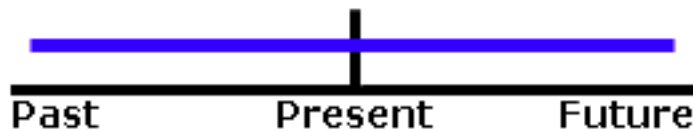
### USE 1 Facts or Generalisations



We use the Present Simple when something is generally true (or when the speaker believes it is true).

- The sun rises in the east.
- Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- California is in America.
- California is not in the United Kingdom.
- Windows are made of glass.

### USE 2 Permanent Situations



We use the Present Simple for situations that we think of as more or less permanent.

- I live in Vienna.
- Where do you live?
- She works in a bank.
- They love coffee.
- She has three children.
- I am married.
- I don't like mushrooms.

### USE 3 Things We Do Regularly



We use the Present Simple to express the idea that an action is repeated or typical. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, or just something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do. We often use adverbs of frequency here.

- I play tennis every Tuesday.
- We often go to the cinema.
- She gets up at seven o'clock every day.
- At the weekend, we usually go to the market.
- How often do you study English?
- I don't travel very often.
- She always forgets her purse.

### USE 4 Books, Plays, and Films

We use the Present Simple to talk about what happens in books, plays, and films.

- The hero dies at the end of the film.
- A young woman travels through Europe, where she meets different people, and finally falls in love.
- In this book, an army invades Britain.
- The main character is very pretty and works in a bookshop.

### USE 5 Scheduled Events in the Future



We use the Present Simple to talk about scheduled events in the future. Usually, the timetable is fixed by an organisation, not by us.

- School begins at nine tomorrow.
- Our train leaves at eleven.
- What time does the film start?
- The plane doesn't arrive at seven, it arrives at seven thirty.
- When does the class finish?

Adapted from <http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepresent.html> & <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-simple-use.html>

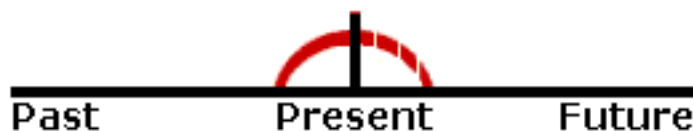
### USE 6 After words like 'when', 'until', 'after', 'before' and 'as soon as'



We use the Present Simple to talk about the future after words like 'when', 'until', 'after', 'before' and 'as soon as'.

- I will call you when I have time.
- I won't go out until it stops raining.
- She'll come as soon as her babysitter arrives.
- I'm going to make dinner after I watch the news.
- I'll give you the book before you go.

### USE 7 Now (Non-Continuous Verbs)



We use the Present Simple to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with [Non-Continuous Verbs](#) (also known as 'stative' or 'state' verbs and certain [Mixed Verbs](#)).

- 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?

### USE 8 To-do Lists ('have')

We use the Present Simple form of 'have to' to say what we have to do. This can have a general meaning e.g, I have to get up at 7.00am every day or a FUTURE meaning, e.g, I have to wash my car tomorrow.

- I have to get up at 7.00am every day.
- I have to wash my car tomorrow.
- I have to study English later.
- I have to call my mum this weekend.
- I have to renew my passport this year.
- I have to finish my homework after dinner.

### **Adverb Position**

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

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

### **Active/Passive**

- Once a week, Tom **cleans** the car. *Active*
- Once a week, the car **is cleaned** by Tom. *Passive*

Go to <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/english-language-pdf.html> and/or to <http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepresent.html> (scroll down) to find exercises to practice this tense.