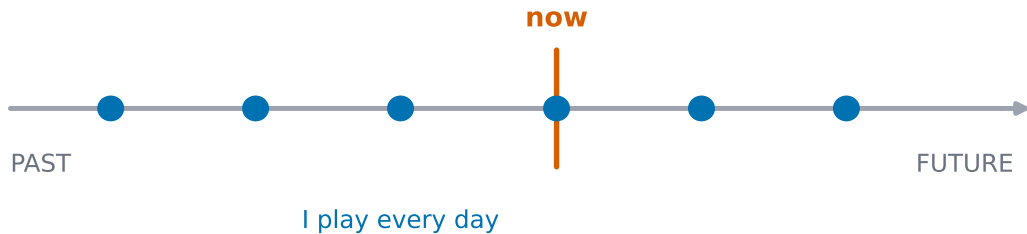


Present simple

English Grammar · A2

Habits & Facts

Present simple - a repeated habit



Present simple: a repeated habit: tense timeline

The present simple tense is used to talk about **things that happen regularly** and **facts that are always true**: daily habits, schedules, scientific facts.

Structure: +

I drink coffee every morning.

I drink coffee every morning.

We live in Shanghai.

We live in Shanghai.

Scientific facts also use the present simple:

Water boils at one hundred degrees.

Water boils at one hundred degrees Celsius.

It is often used with **adverbs of frequency**: always, usually, often, sometimes, never.

She always takes the bus.

She always takes the bus.

Note

- When talking about current habits, **do not** add a be verb: ~~I am drink coffee~~
× → I drink coffee ✓.

- Adverbs of frequency usually go **before the main verb**, but **after the be verb**:
She is **often** late.

Third person singular -s

When the subject is **he / she / it** (third person singular), the verb takes **-s** or **-es**.

Structure: He / She / It + + -s

He works in a bank.

He works at a bank.

My sister likes music.

My sister likes music.

Spelling rules:

- Generally add **-s** directly: work → works, play → plays.
- Ends in **-s / -sh / -ch / -x / -o**, add **-es**: watch → watches, go → goes.
- Consonant letter + **-y** ending, change **y** to **i** and add **-es**: study → studies, fly → flies.

She watches TV at night.

She watches TV at night.

Note

- Only he / she / it takes -s; I / you / we / they do **not take** it: ~~They likes~~ ×
→ They like ✓.
- have is special: he / she / it uses **has** (not ~~haves~~).

Negatives & questions

For negative and interrogative forms in the Present Simple, use the auxiliary verb **do / does**. Use **does** for he / she / it, and **do** for other subjects.

Negative structure: + don't / doesn't +

I don't eat meat.

I don't eat meat.

He doesn't like coffee.

He doesn't like coffee.

Interrogative structure: Do / Does + + ?

Do you speak English?

Do you speak English?

Does she work here?

Does she work here?

Short answers: **Yes, I do.** / **No, he doesn't.**

Note

- After using do / does, the **verb returns to its base form** (no longer adds -s):
~~He doesn't likes~~ × → He doesn't like ✓.
- Don't forget the auxiliary verb: in formal contexts say **Do you...?**, not just ~~You speak English?~~.

Common Errors

- × ~~She don't like it.~~ → ✓ She **doesn't** like it. — For third-person singular negatives, use doesn't, not don't.
- × ~~Does he has a car?~~ → ✓ Does he **have** a car? — When using does, even has reverts to the base form have.
- × ~~Everyone know the answer.~~ → ✓ Everyone **knows** the answer. — everyone / everybody / nobody are treated as **singular**, so add -s to the verb.
- × ~~I am usually going to school by bike.~~ → ✓ I usually **go** to school by bike.
— Repeated habits use the Present Simple, not the continuous tense.