

Simple Present

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Grammar Notes

SIMPLE PRESENT

A. Patterns

Positive Sentences		Base Verb	Base Verb + -s
Pronouns	Singular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I run. You run. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He runs. She runs. It runs.
	Plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We run. You run. They run. 	—
Nouns	Singular	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My friend runs.
	Plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My friends run. 	—

Negative Sentences		Do Not + Base Verb	Does Not + Base Verb
Pronouns	Singular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't sing. You don't sing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He doesn't sing. She doesn't sing. It doesn't sing.
	Plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We don't sing. You don't sing. They don't sing. 	—
Nouns	Singular	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My friend doesn't sing.
	Plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My friends don't sing. 	—



Grammar Notes cont.

A. Patterns cont.

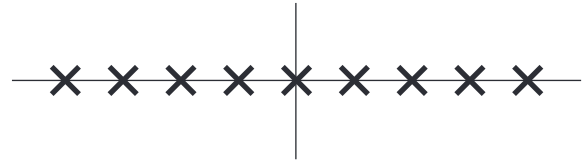
Questions		Do + Subject + Base Verb	Does + Subject + Base Verb
Pronouns	Singular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do I have something in my teeth? Yes, you do. / No, you don't. Do you like pizza? Yes, I do. / No, I don't. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does she like pizza? Yes, she does. / No, she doesn't. Does he like pizza? Yes, he does. / No, he doesn't. Does it run fast? Yes, it does. / No, it doesn't.
	Plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we have time? Yes, we do. / No, we don't. Do you like pizza? Yes, we do. / No, we don't. Do they like pizza? Yes, they do. / No, they don't. 	—
Nouns	Singular	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your brother like pizza? Yes, he does. / No, he doesn't. Does your sister like pizza? Yes, she does. / No, she doesn't. Does your dog run fast? Yes, it does. / No, it doesn't.
	Plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do your roommates like pizza? Yes, they do. / No, they don't. 	—

Grammar Notes cont.

B. Uses

USE #1: Repeated Actions

Use the simple present for actions that happen over and over. *Time markers* (words about time) help to show how often an action happens.



Common Time Markers		Examples
Every	every day, every week, every month, every year, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He brushes his teeth every day. My coworkers write reports every morning.
Once, twice, three times, etc.	once a week, twice a month, three times a year, four times a day, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She walks her dog twice a day. Our neighbors have a garage sale three times a year.
Adverbs of Frequency*	always, often, usually, sometimes, never, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It often rains in the springtime. They always do their homework.

*Note:

Adverbs of frequency show *how often* an action occurs. Use the pattern **Subject + Adverb + Verb**.

- She **usually** does her homework.
- They **sometimes** visit their grandparents.



Grammar Notes cont.

B. Uses cont.

USE #2: True Facts

The simple present is often used for facts and information.

- Water **boils** at 212° Fahrenheit.
- Leaves **fall off** the trees in autumn.
- Dictionaries **help** students learn a new language.

USE #3: Schedules

The simple present is common in many types of schedules and timetables.

- My favorite show **starts** at 7:00 pm.
- Five buses **leave** the station at 10:15 am.
- Flight #510 **arrives** in New York on Friday.

C. Spelling Notes

To form the third person singular for simple present verbs, follow these rules:

#	Rule	Examples
1	For most verbs, add -s.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eat → eats • sing → sings • like → likes
2	If a verb ends in consonant + -y, change -y to -i and add -es.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry → carries • try → tries • study → studies
3	If a verb ends with -s, -z, -sh, -ch, -x, or -o, add -es.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • miss → misses • buzz → buzzes • wash → washes • watch → watches • mix → mixes • go → goes
4	For the verbs <i>be</i> and <i>have</i> , use <i>is</i> and <i>has</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be → is • have → has

Exercise 1

POSITIVE SENTENCES

Choose a verb from the box, and write the correct simple present form in the sentences below.

Ex. The show starts at 8:30 pm.

1. I _____ breakfast at 7:00 every morning.
2. He always _____ a suit to work.
3. My teacher usually _____ at the front of the classroom.
4. He _____ his teeth three times a day.
5. We sometimes _____ our groceries on the weekend.
6. My dogs always _____ on my bed.
7. She often _____ chicken for dinner.
8. They _____ the bus to school every day.
9. We often _____ TV in the evenings.
10. He _____ to the radio on his way to work.
11. My roommate _____ three languages.
12. A mechanic _____ cars.
13. She _____ the dishes after dinner.
14. They _____ coffee every morning.
15. Water _____ at 32° Fahrenheit.

Verb List:

- fix
- stand
- speak
- drink
- eat
- ~~• start~~
- sleep
- wash
- make
- listen
- buy
- wear
- take
- watch
- freeze
- brush

Exercise 2

NEGATIVE SENTENCES

Choose a verb from the box, and write the correct negative form in the sentences below.

Ex. The movie doesn't start for another 15 minutes.

1. I like summer. I _____ winter.
2. Jerry and Beth are strangers. They _____ each other.
3. We _____ to school on the weekend.
4. Mrs. Smith wants a divorce. She _____ her husband anymore.
5. Turtles _____ quickly.
6. Children _____ coffee.
7. You _____ jeans to a wedding.
8. Poor people _____ a lot of money.
9. It's warm today. You _____ a coat.
10. Jessica is very healthy. She _____ junk food.
11. The students are from China. They _____ English.
12. The shoe store _____ hats.
13. That restaurant _____ breakfast.
14. The children _____ early on the weekend.
15. Leaves _____ off trees in the summer.

Verb List:

- speak
- know
- go
- need
- like
- drink
- love
- move
- eat
- wear
- ~~• start~~
- fall
- sell
- have
- get up
- serve

Exercise 3

LISTENING

Listen to the recording and write short answers based on the prompt.

#	Prompt	Answer
Ex	Yes	<i>Yes, she does.</i>
1	Yes	
2	No	
3	Yes	
4	No	
5	No	
6	Yes	
7	Yes	
8	No	
9	Yes	
10	No	

Recording:

Does she wake up early every day?

Exercise 4

BINGO

Ask different classmates these questions. Draw an X through the square when someone answers "Yes, I do." If you get a complete horizontal (—), vertical (|), or diagonal (/ or \) line, yell "Bingo!"

Do you like ice cream?	Do you have a cat?	Do you wash your face every day?	Do you usually wear jeans to school?	Do you watch TV every night?
Do you like funny movies?	Do you go to the beach in the summer?	Do you play an instrument?	Do you often take the bus?	Do you like animals?
Do you do laundry on the weekend?	Do you have a dog?	Free Space	Do you like sushi?	Do you have any brothers or sisters?
Do you play any sports?	Do you like junk food?	Do you brush your hair every day?	Do you wear sneakers to school?	Do you like to dance?
Do you brush your teeth before bed?	Do you wear boots when it rains?	Do you do your homework five times a week?	Do you like English?	Do you drink water every day?

Exercise 5

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Wh- Words

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW

Pattern: Wh- word + do / does + subject + base verb

Examples:

- How often do you go to school?
- Who texts you every day?

A. Answers

Write answers to the questions.

Ex. Where do you go every Saturday? **(the mall)**

I go to the mall every Saturday. _____

1. What does she want for her birthday? **(a new shirt)**

2. Who calls you every day? **(my best friend)**

3. What time does the meeting start? **(at 2:00 pm)**

4. How often do you brush your teeth? **(twice a day)**

5. How much does the book cost? **(\$10.00)**

B. Questions

Write questions for the answers.

Ex. *How often do you exercise?* _____

I exercise three times a week.

1. _____

I live in Paris, France.

2. _____

My birthday is in June.

3. _____

They want to talk to the teacher.

4. _____

She goes to bed at 10:30 pm.

5. _____

He sometimes plays the guitar.

Exercise 6 (Student A)

PAIR WORK

A. Speaking Practice

Ask your partner questions and fill in the missing information.

Example #1

A: What time does Maria wake up?

B: She wakes up at 6:30 am.

Example #2

B: What time does John wake up?

A: He wakes up at 6:15 am.

	wakes up	eats breakfast	goes to school	eats lunch	eats dinner	does homework	goes to bed
 John	6:15 am		8:30 am		7:00 pm		11:00 pm
 Maria		7:45 am		12:00 pm		7:15 pm	

B. Writing Practice

Now write five sentences about John's daily routine.

Ex. *John wakes up at 6:15 am.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Exercise 6 (Student B)

PAIR WORK

A. Speaking Practice

Ask your partner questions and fill in the missing information.

Example #1

B: What time does John wake up?

A: He wakes up at 6:15 am.

Example #2

A: What time does Maria wake up?

B: She wakes up at 6:30 am.

	wakes up	eats breakfast	goes to school	eats lunch	eats dinner	does homework	goes to bed
 John		7:20 am		12:15 pm		8:15 pm	
 Maria	6:30 am		8:40 am		6:00 pm		10:30 pm

B. Writing Practice

Now write five sentences about Maria's daily routine.

Ex. *Maria wakes up at 6:30 am.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Exercise 8

QUIZ

Find one error in each sentence. Rewrite the correct sentences.

Ex. She take a trip three times a year.

She takes a trip three times a year.

1. He not speak French.

2. My favorite TV show start at 8:00 pm.

3. I walk my dog twice a days.

4. Water boil at 212° Fahrenheit.

5. Does you eat breakfast at 7:00 am?

6. She not watch TV.

7. They have not a dog.

8. What time do he wake up every day?

9. We play often baseball.

10. The train leave at 2:30 pm.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn the patterns and uses of the simple present. They practice this common tense through writing and speaking activities that include individual, pair, and group work.

LEVEL: Beg

TIME: 2 hours

TAGS: simple present, present, verb tenses, questions, negative, grammar practice exercises, grammar practice worksheets, simple present exercises

Exercise 1

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. eat | 6. sleep | 11. speaks |
| 2. wears | 7. makes | 12. fixes |
| 3. stands | 8. take | 13. washes |
| 4. brushes | 9. watch | 14. drink |
| 5. buy | 10. listens | 15. freezes |

Exercise 2

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. don't like | 6. don't drink | 11. don't speak |
| 2. don't know | 7. don't wear | 12. doesn't sell |
| 3. don't go | 8. don't have | 13. doesn't serve |
| 4. doesn't love | 9. don't need | 14. don't get up |
| 5. don't move | 10. doesn't eat | 15. don't fall |

Exercise 3

Transcript:

- Does he take the bus to school?
- Do they live in a big city?
- Does your sister study English every day?
- Does your brother live in an apartment?
- Do we have any homework?
- Do you always speak English in class?
- Do your neighbors have a car?
- Does she take piano lessons once a week?
- Does snow melt in the spring?
- Do you and your friend like horror movies?

Answers:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Yes, he does. | 6. Yes, I do. |
| 2. No, they don't. | 7. Yes, they do. |
| 3. Yes, she does. | 8. No, she doesn't. |
| 4. No, he doesn't. | 9. Yes, it does. |
| 5. No, we don't. | 10. No, we don't. |

Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Make sure your students are saying a complete short answer (*Yes, I do. / No, I don't.*) and not just *Yes* or *No*.

Exercise 5

A. ANSWERS

- She wants a new shirt for her birthday.
- My best friend calls me every day.
- The meeting starts at 2:00 pm.
- I brush my teeth twice a day.
- The book costs \$10.00.

B. QUESTIONS

- Where do you live?
- When is your birthday?
- Who do they want to talk to?
- What time/When does she go to bed?
- How often does he play the guitar?

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 6

A. SPEAKING PRACTICE

Student A:

John eats breakfast at 7:20 am, eats lunch at 12:15 pm, and does his homework at 8:15 pm. Maria wakes up at 6:30 am, goes to school at 8:40 am, eats dinner at 6:00 pm, and goes to bed at 10:30 pm.

Student B:

John wakes up at 6:15 am, goes to school at 8:30 am, eats dinner at 7:00 pm, and goes to bed at 11:00 pm.
 Maria eats breakfast at 7:45 am, eats lunch at 12:00 pm, and does her homework at 7:15 pm.

B. WRITING PRACTICE

Answers may vary. Possible answers include:

Student A:

- John wakes up at 6:15 am.
- John eats breakfast at 7:20 am.
- John goes to school at 8:30 am.
- John eats lunch at 12:15 pm.
- John eats dinner at 7:00 pm.
- John does his homework at 8:15 pm.
- John goes to bed at 11:00 pm.

Student B:

- Maria wakes up at 6:30 am.
- Maria eats breakfast at 7:45 am.
- Maria goes to school at 8:40 am.
- Maria eats lunch at 12:00 pm.
- Maria eats dinner at 6:00 pm.
- Maria does her homework at 7:15 pm.
- Maria goes to bed at 10:30 pm.

Exercise 7

Answers will vary.

Exercise 8

1. He **doesn't** speak French.
2. My favorite TV show **starts** at 8:00 pm.
3. I walk my dog twice a **day**.
4. Water **boils** at 212° Fahrenheit.
5. **Do** you eat breakfast at 7:00 am?
6. She **doesn't** watch TV.
7. They **don't** have a dog.
8. What time **does** he wake up every day?
9. We **often** play baseball.
10. The train **leaves** at 2:30 pm.

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Favorite* and *Neighbors*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Favourite* and *Neighbours*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If your students need more practice with Adverbs of Frequency, try our Grammar Practice Worksheets lesson: <https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/2241>