

The present simple

Introduction



I love my dog!!

Definition

The present simple is one of the two present tenses. The other one is the **present continuous**.

Construction

Affirmative

Subject + verb/verb with **s** or **es** - I **like** cheese.

We add **s** or **es** to the end of regular **verbs** with **he**, **she** or **it**.

Anne **loves** chocolate.

Thierry **misses** his wife.

The train **arrives** at 10 o'clock.

It is important to pronounce the **s** or **es**.

Negative

Subject + **do** + **not** + **bare infinitive** - I **don't like** cheese.

Interrogative

Do + subject + **bare infinitive** - **Do you like** cheese?

Negative

Interrogative

I don't work
You don't work
He doesn't work
She doesn't work
It doesn't work
We don't work
They don't work

Do I work?
Do you work?
Does he work?
Does she work?
Does it work?
Do we work?
Do they work?

Does sounds like **dʌz**.

Doesn't sounds like **dʌzənt**.

Irregular verbs

There are some irregular verbs, including 'do', 'go' and 'have'.

Regular verbs	Do	Go	Have
I work	I do	I go	I have
You work	You do	You go	You have
He works	He does	He goes	He has
She works	She does	She goes	She has
It works	It does	It goes	It has
We work	We do	We go	We have
They work	They do	They go	They have

Uses

Uses	Examples
To state general facts	The sun rises in the east. Australians speak English.

To give information

I **like** coffee.
She **lives** in London.
He **plays** tennis.
This plane **flies** to Paris.

To talk about repeated actions, habits or routines

I **leave** work at 5pm.
I **go** to the gym on Fridays.

Examples

I **don't work** on Fridays.
He **doesn't like** his job.
She **doesn't drink** coffee in the evening.
He **doesn't play** tennis.
They **don't live** in London.

Does he **work** in this office?
Do Bill and Ted **drink** tea or coffee?
Do Mexicans **speak** Spanish?
Does she **have** an appointment?
Do you **wash** your hair every day?

Time phrases

We **use** time phrases with the present simple:

We **have** a team meeting **every week**.
I **take** the children to school **every morning**.
I **go** to the dentist **one time a year**.
She **does** the shopping **on Saturdays**.

Pronunciation of present tense regular verbs

/s/ sound after soft consonants

/z/ sound after hard consonants and vowel sounds

/lz/ sound after /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, z, /ks/ and /dz/

Change y to i and add es when verb ends in a consonant and y.

no extra syllable

no extra syllable

this adds an extra syllable

no extra syllable

likes
shops
talks
stops
walks
laughs
works
wants
waits
drinks
sits
eats

orders
ends
loves
lives
arrives
learns

plays
listens
needs

misses
watches
finishes
manages
fixes
washes

hurry hurri +es
hurries
fly
flies
study
studies

Example

Xavier goes to work at 8am but he sometimes misses the bus. On Friday afternoons, he does the shopping and he watches TV in the evenings. He washes his car every Sunday and fixes any problems. He has a son. He helps his father.



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